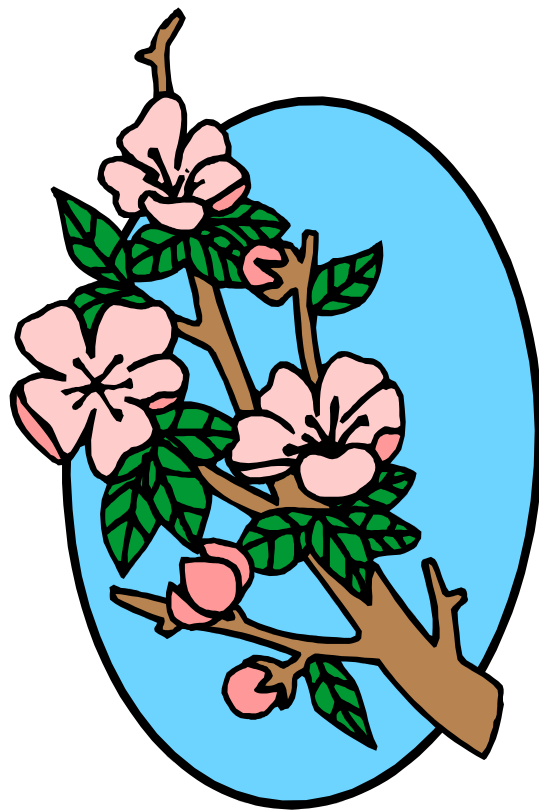


The Christian Homemaker's Book of Blessings



Sit down, relax, and enjoy this book. It was written to
bless your heart. May it also enrich some part of your
walk as a Blessed Christian Homemaker.

Written by Candy Brauer

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*When the Mist Clears,
Clarity Appears*

First Installment

Meet Misty

I have to get the hang of power braking. It's in the timing. It's my turn. The light is going to turn green, and I need to do this right. It's my turn to win the drag race at the Addington Speedway. It's MY TURN. The light is green. DARN IT! I red lighted. Now my quarter mile time won't count; it's an automatic lose. I lost before I even got out of the hole. I can't win. When will it be my turn? When do I get my piece of the pie?

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. The alarm clock sounded loudly in Misty's ear. It was time to wake up, but she wished she could hit the snooze button and go back to her dream. Before she and her husband had children, they enjoyed drag racing their 1960s Mopar muscle cars at the local speedway. Her dream was a reoccurring one, reminiscent of those days. She wondered why she could never win the race. It was like something was holding her back.

"Mommy, I'm hungry! Feed me feed me feed me feed me..."

"OKAY, Sunny, just WAIT a minute!"

Misty rubbed her eyes, regretting the night before, when she binged on chocolate donuts and cola, while watching old movies. She stayed up until it was nearly dawn. A question flitted across her mind. She wondered *why* she indulged in these late night binges. She never considered answering the inquiry, and quickly brushed it from her thoughts.

The first order of business was to get her 5-year-old daughter, Sunny, fed. A large bowl of sugary cereal solved that problem. Next, she needed to wake up the twins, age 3, and see if they wet their beds. They were deep sleepers. Misty loved how they'd sleep in, if she let them stay up late, but she dreaded checking their sheets every morning.

As Misty walked into the kitchen, she felt anger well up from inside, when she saw that her husband didn't do the dishes before he left for work that morning. *Why can't he help out around here? Doesn't he know how hard it is for*

me? I gave up my career, to stay at home to raise the kids. Can't he at least wash a plate? I wish he understood.

Misty started planning a form of revenge. On the other hand, maybe the better word is punishment. She felt that her husband needed to understand the importance of helping her out around the house. She felt the best form of disciplinary action she could take, would be to withhold herself from him that night. She had tried that tactic before, and it always failed, and left both her and her husband, Barry, quite disappointed. For some reason, she always came back to this plan, when Barry disappointed her.

The phone rang. Misty dived in front of Sunny, and behind her toddling twins, to excitedly answer the phone. It was her best friend, Betty. Betty reminded Misty that it was her turn to host the girl's night out, which was that night. Betty hinted that the girls were interested in an extra special night.

When Misty got off the phone, she quickly logged into her banking account online, and saw that there wasn't any money in the bank. A thought flashed through her mind, of how Barry probably spent it on men's magazines, or something for his cars. *Doesn't he understand that I have needs too? When was the last time I got to get my hair and nails done at a high-end salon? Why is he so selfish?* A grin slowly tugged at the corners of her mouth, as she remembered the emergency credit card Barry kept in the home office. She figured this counted as an emergency, so she grabbed the credit card, and put it into her purse.

The rest of Misty's day was a usual day for her. It was one of disorganized chaos. Her children had sticky faces, spent most of the day complaining, running in circles, and throwing temper tantrums when she tried to get them to help out around the house, or behave. When Barry came home from work promptly at 5:45pm, there was no dinner waiting for him. There rarely was, but Barry hoped every day, nonetheless.

Barry and the kids were given jars of peanut butter and jelly, and a loaf of cheap white bread to make their own sandwiches, while Misty dashed into the bedroom to get ready for the girl's night out. She still hadn't gotten out of her nightgown for the day. On some days, she would stay in her night

gown until it was time for bed again.

Misty had an exciting night planned, so she decided to be a bit daring, and wear her short leather mini dress. She kept it for certain occasions, but it's been a while since she wore it. It wouldn't fit without her wearing a very tight girdle. Even with the undergarment pulling in her stomach, she still felt she looked like a stuffed sausage. As she peeled the tight dress off her body, she felt like a snake shedding its skin, and she cursed the extra 30 pounds that had clung to her for the past several years. She wanted her slim waist and girlish figure back. Misty had tried to lose weight in the past. She would do great until nighttime. As soon as the children were in bed, the cravings hit, and she had to have her chocolate donuts and cola. Wasted. A whole day of diligent dieting down the drain. That's how it always went.

She looked through her closet, while inwardly mumbling more complaints about Barry. She complained to herself about Barry often. She thought he should make more money, because she wanted new clothes. She felt she wasn't properly provided for, and had considered this as grounds for a divorce. Sure, their house was paid off, they had a pool in the back yard, and they even had a gardening service come over regularly to keep their large yard well manicured, but Barry didn't give her enough money. Did he expect her to wear the same old outfits, day after day? Like a regular chant, it came into her mind once again - *Why doesn't he understand?*

A shiny glint captured her eye. "Of course!" She shouted, as she ran to the other end of the closet, and pulled out her sequin mini skirt. It was new, it was black, and it was deliciously slimming. She coupled the skirt with a cute tank top with a bling border. She was disappointed at how big her rear looked, when she studied her reflection in the mirror. *The old jacket cure*, she thought. She grabbed her crisp, white jacket, and put it on. It covered her backside, and made her hips appear slimmer. No matter how hot it got, she would not take that jacket off. That jacket made her forget about those extra 30 pounds, and made her feel beautiful again.

Misty gathered her dark red hair into a loose, elegant bun. She almost dropped her bobby pin, when she noticed another gray hair. She snatched her scissors, and snipped off the offending member. Misty decided she will always be too young to have gray hair.

She opened her large makeup case, and took 45 minutes to put on her face. She wanted to look stunning. *I bet this will get Barry's attention*, she thought. As she stepped out of the room, Barry barely glanced at her. He told her that he had work to do in the home office, and asked her to clean the kitchen, and watch the kids. Misty felt her heart was about to burst through her chest, as it was beating so fast in her fury. *How could he forget that tonight is girl's night?* She took a deep breath, and while she didn't yell, the edge in her voice clearly depicted the anger that welled up inside, as she reminded Barry about her night out. Without waiting to hear Barry's response, she promptly plopped the children in front of the television, gave Sunny the remote control, and she strolled out the door.

Misty decided that if Barry wasn't going to notice her, at least she can get other men's attention. Her lips formed into a smile of revenge, and she felt better.

Second Installment

Honest Thoughts

Misty sulked her way into the family room, at around 9:30pm. Girl's night was a disaster. The restaurant and bar she had chosen lost her reservations for the private room she held, and she didn't plan anything else. She wanted the night to be spontaneous. No one agreed on what to do that night. It seemed everyone was in the mood for something else. *So much for a different, and interesting girl's night*, Misty thought.

The children were in bed, but the light was still on in Barry's home office. Misty considered going in to say "hi," but then that would be admitting that girl's night was a failure. He didn't appear to notice that she was home yet. Instead, Misty went into the master bedroom, and got ready for a bath. With book and drink in hand, she went into the master bathroom, and slid into the garden tub. This was her favorite place to be. She could read her fiction romances, pretend she was the heroine, and fantasize about the exciting life, and the romantic husband she wished she had.

Minutes turned into hours, as Misty had to occasionally turn on the hot water to warm the tub. By the time she slipped out of the tub, it was just before midnight. She wasn't tired yet, and Barry was still up. She decided she had "stayed out" long enough for girl's night, and grabbed some donuts and cola and plopped in front of the TV.

As she flipped through the channels, she stopped on one of her favorite women's channels. There was a strange movie on, about the Victorian days. Misty secretly wished she could wear those dresses, and be as feminine as the women portrayed on the screen.

She loved it, when Barry insisted she leave her job when she was pregnant with their first child, and become a stay at home mother. When growing up, that's what she always wanted to be - a stay at home mom. She had never admitted those dreams to anyone, because that was not what was expected of her. She was supposed to desire a power career. She was supposed to desire success, and the envy of her peers. While she pretended to desire these things, and leaned toward the side of feminism, whenever she was honest with herself, and was alone with her thoughts, that's never what she

truly desired. She wanted to wear pretty dresses, to take care of a husband who treated her like a queen, and to have loving, well-behaved children.

While she was adrift in her thoughts, the movie ended. Misty turned off the TV, and went to bed.

The light is about to turn green. I red lighted - AGAIN. Once again, I lost the race... The speedway is fading away... In its place is a small, modest, well-kept home in the country. The children are playing outside with a dog, Barry is working on his laptop while watching the children, and clearly enjoying the beautiful day. And... there I am. I am SMILING. I am working in a garden. It looks like I'm picking green beans, or some type of delicious, green vegetable. I feel so much at peace.

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. No, *I don't want to leave this dream!* Misty reluctantly woke up. She awoke with a different feeling that morning. Instead of feeling disappointed about losing the race in her usual, reoccurring dream, she awoke with the feeling that she had won.

Third Installment Society's Script

From outside observation, Misty's day looked no different than any other. It was a usual day of disorganized chaos. However, if one were to look into Misty's heart, they would see a vast difference. Seemingly dormant gears were beginning to turn. Misty was thinking about things she gave little thought to before, and never really gave herself permission to think about.

Misty was opening her mind to what her true dreams and desires for her life were. Her dream the night before, helped her to realize that she had never considered what she really wanted out of life. She always felt her life had to run a certain course that was already laid out. This course was subtly taught to her from society, school, and her peers.

There seemed to be a sort of cloud that encircled her, placed there by those around her. It was an unmentioned distaste for what she truly wanted, in her heart of hearts. Misty came to the realization that she was not living up to her potential, being who she really was. She had spent her life living up to other's expectations. She was expected to have girl's night out each week. She was expected to be unhappy about being a stay at home mother, because she was groomed, since childhood, to be equal to men in everything. She was taught that this meant she must match, if not surpass, men in the workforce. The thought now left a bad taste in her mouth. *Who says women have to be equal to men, by competing in a man's world? Who made that rule up? A woman living her life as a homemaker, doesn't make her unequal to men, it just makes her different. Isn't that a good thing?*

A sudden realization seemed to come at Misty at such an alarming rate, that its sensation was one of almost physical pain. Misty complained about being a stay at home mom. She complained about having to clean the house and cook for her family. She thought she was supposed to complain. It dawned on her that she didn't want to complain; it seemed to be merely a knee-jerk response, as if it were programmed into her.

The tears welled up in her eyes, as Misty realized, for the first time, that she didn't know who she was. She had lived her life under expectations of society; under the expectation of others. Where should she begin?

Misty went through the rest of the day doing the motions, but her thoughts were elsewhere. She ordered a pizza delivery for supper, and dismissed herself to her room early that evening. She tightly closed her eyes, willing herself to stop feeling this way, but it didn't work. It was like she opened the lid to some mysterious box, and once you've seen a glimpse of the contents, they begin to encompass you, and you can never turn back.

She felt empty. She saw herself for what she had been for most of her life. She was a shell, filled with programming. She was not who she was meant to be. She wasn't trained to think, she was trained to respond according to set societal parameters. Her first impulse was to call a friend, and ask someone for direction. She stopped suddenly, as if jolted by an electric shock. She was falling into her old ways, once again. She was about to ask someone else how she should think, feel, act, and live. She seemed to be in this mess by herself. Alone.

Unable to eat, unable to sleep, unable to do anything, Misty turned on the TV, and got comfortable in bed. She decided she needed to distract herself for a while, until she became tired, and then she would welcome the blissful escape of sleep. She didn't know what else to do.

There was nothing good on TV, except for one movie - *Groundhog Day*. She didn't know what the movie was about, but it was just starting. She hoped it would be good enough to distract her for a while.

She found herself identifying with the main character of the movie. She saw that he wasn't living up to his potential, just as she wasn't. When the main character became stuck in a loop, she identified with him. That's where she felt she was, right at that moment - stuck in a loop; couldn't go forward, couldn't go backwards. She felt like she had been living the same day, over and over again. It all seemed so superficial, with no real meaning behind it.

Misty jolted off her bed, as something seemed to enter her mind, in an almost audible click. The main character started bettering himself. He started doing things he was interested in, in his heart of hearts. He stopped living the shell of a life, and started living a life of growth. That's what she wanted to do.

Misty decided she was going to determine what it was she really wanted from her life, even if it went against everything she'd ever been taught.

A yawn slowly escaped her. For the first time in years, she fell into a sound sleep before midnight.

Fourth Installment

Eyes Wide Open

When Misty's eyes fluttered open the next morning, it seemed more than just her physical eyes were observing things.

It was grocery day. She piled her children into the car, and went to the market to take advantage of good sales, and stock up on the basic staples needed for her kitchen.

The children were beginning their usual cries of impatience, so Misty gave them each some crackers to snack on. She realized she should be teaching her children to behave when they were out, but Misty found she was at a loss as to what to do. As she thought further, it dawned on her that the solution was perhaps more simple than she was anticipating. Could it be, that she needed only tell them, nicely, what she expected of them, and if they disobeyed, then she simply gave a disciplinary action? As she looked back on her days as a mother, she realized she was a lazy mom. She would let her children get away with so much mischief. She would threaten to punish them, such as removing a favorite toy for a day, or standing them in a corner, but she didn't recall ever following through. *Am I teaching my children to be liars? Am I teaching them to be manipulative, because of my lazy disciplinary skills?*

While she pondered this, an interesting sight caught her eye. Going down the other side of the isle, coming towards her, there was a woman with several children. The woman was wearing a beautiful, modest dress. Her long hair flowed down her back, and there was some type of pretty scarf folded into a wide headband, which sat neatly on top of her head. Her children walked by her, and behind the cart, and not one of them was acting up. As the cart drew nearer, Misty could hear the conversation occurring, as they passed. They looked happy, and appeared to be enjoying one another's company. The mother was speaking to her little girl, who looked to be about 4 years old. The mother was telling her about giving a portion of the dollar her dad gave her, to church. She called it a "tithe," and said that when she gives from her heart, God honors that, and blesses her. The child smiled at her mother, and proclaimed she wanted to give the

whole dollar.

Misty realized she never paid attention to people before. Were there more families out there, like that? A yearning cried from her heart. She wished she had what that mother had, but she didn't know what it was. She only knew she wanted it, too.

The next cart she passed was a blatant contradiction to the peace of the previous one. The mother was appareled in a similar way to Misty - sweat pants, baggy t-shirt, tangled hair in a ponytail, etc. This mother had one child with her. He looked to be about 7 years old. The mother was berating him, telling him that she wished he would respect her. She was saying this with an ugly scowl etched across her face, which made Misty shiver. When the cart was almost out of hearing distance, Misty heard the mother call her child a brat.

All of the other carts she passed had people with little to no joy in their eyes, no smiles on their faces, and a general look of dissatisfaction. She wondered if this was how she looked to the world. She realized she, too, was dissatisfied. *There's got to be more to life than this. I know I'm missing something. I seemed to just go through the motions, day-to-day, and never stopped to think. I let my emotions be my guide. If I didn't like someone, I would gossip about them. If I liked someone, I'd tell them what they wanted to hear, and puff them up with empty flatteries. How is it that I've never really thought about this before? Most of my life, I merely drifted from one situation to another, only thinking about how each situation made me feel. It was like I was going down a river, in a boat with no paddle. The current took me where it wanted, and I was the willing, yet ignorant passenger. I didn't take control, but just went along for the ride.*

Misty arrived home, and let the kids play, while she put away the groceries, and then sat down, and enjoyed a cup of tea. While enjoying the warm satisfaction of her tea, she grabbed a pen and paper, and started to jot down some goals. The first thing that came to her mind, was to lose weight. Next, clean up the house, and devise a system that would allow her to keep the house clean. She paused, when she thought about how she should treat her family. She knew she needed to take control of her children. No more would they be allowed to wander around the house, eating candy, and doing what they wanted. She needed to teach them responsibility. She

wanted her children to be calm, well behaved, and happy - like the ones she saw at the store with that woman. Next - Barry *I don't know what to do about Barry. He doesn't understand me, and I don't understand him. Wait - I don't understand him.* She decided she needed to learn who her husband was. She realized she didn't know him anymore.

Their marriage was barely there. Barry left for work each morning, while Misty and the kids still slept. He came home promptly at 5:45pm each evening, and had his supper. Then, he was off to either his home office, or to the garage, to work on his projects. *What was it he did in the home office, and in the garage? Who is my husband?* Misty added that to her goal list - to get to know her husband again.

Fifth Installment

What's in a Name?

It had only been two weeks since Misty sat down to make her goals list, but it seemed like eons ago. She was already losing weight, and was anticipating the completion of that goal. Things were improving considerably with the children, as well. Misty swallowed her pride, and called her aunt Kara. Aunt Kara raised her six children with such seemingly ease. Her children were always well behaved in public, and had such nice smiles. They grew up to be happy, well-adjusted adults who started beautiful families of their own.

Aunt Kara had happily agreed to answer all of Misty's questions, and help her in any way she could. This ended up being a bigger help than Misty could have expected. It was great to have an older woman to look up to, and who was willing to give support when needed.

The housework was not a hard issue to resolve, at all. Misty sat down, made a list of all her cleaning duties, and divided them up between the days of the week. With just a short cleaning everyday, her house became clean and organized, and simple to maintain.

All goals were working out wonderfully, except for Barry. The more Misty tried to understand him, the more elusive he appeared to her. It turned out he was not much like the man she had made him up to be in her mind for all those years. He didn't like his office job, didn't like their house, hated the pool in the backyard, and actually dreamed of downsizing, and living frugally in the country.

When Misty first heard those aspirations, she was upset and angered. She felt his desires downgraded the needed amenities of life. Then, she thought of it further. There must be considerable merit in these things, if Barry dreamed of them, and she had to consider that perhaps her preconceived notions of such a lifestyle were also programmed into her, and perhaps she really didn't know what such a life would be like. Perhaps she would love it.

Misty felt sure that Barry would sell the house and move to the country at the drop of a pin, should she stand behind him. While she wanted him happy, and it saddened her that he disliked his job, she wasn't sure she

could give up the life she had become adjusted to. Misty didn't know what to do, so she left things standing as they were, and decided to sit back, observe, and think on it some more in the future.

One day, while cleaning out the storage room, Misty came across her birth certificate. She thought it was lost. A strange twinge tingled up her spine, as she saw her first name in black and white - "Clarity." *What was my mother thinking, when she named me that?* she often wondered, when confronted with her birth name. The moment she turned 18, Misty demanded everyone call her by her middle name - "Misty." She refused to answer to the name "Clarity."

A chuckle escaped her, as she recalled how easy it was to change her last name when she got married, since it was the same last name, but with a different spelling. Before she was married, she was legally Clarity Misty Jonson. Barry's last name was Johnson, so with the addition of the letter 'h' to her last name, she had her legal, married name - Clarity Misty Johnson.

While Misty felt a wonderful surge of accomplishment over the completion of some of her goals, she still felt there was something she was not grasping; something she was missing. She submerged herself in various books, met people on the internet who seemed to be on a journey similar to hers, but no one seemed to have what she was looking for.

Misty was unsure of what it was she was seeking, herself. It was like she was surrounded by a mist, skewing the view of what it was she couldn't get a grasp on. As this thought came to mind, Misty found it perfect that she went by the name "Misty." *Isn't that fitting*, she thought to herself.

Sixth Installment

Meet Christine

Misty awoke feeling excited. She was looking forward to the day, and this day happened to be Grocery Day. She had been working with her children, and was confident that they would be happy and well behaved in the store. She anticipated a nice outing with them, and that is what happened.

She didn't have to bribe them with crackers or goodies. The twins rode in the double seat attachment on the front of the cart, and Sunny walked nicely right next to her. Sunny was in charge of holding the grocery list, and the twins were in charge of telling her what color each item was, as she put the food into the cart.

While waiting in the check out line, Sunny started asking for some candy, and then stopped herself, and said, "oh yeah, that's right. I shouldn't ask for candy from the check out lane." She said it to herself, thinking aloud. Misty put her arm around Sunny, and told her she was proud of her.

There was the sound of shuffling feet behind them. Misty turned around to see the family with the nicely dressed mother and well behaved children getting into line. She was hoping to see her again. As they made eye contact, Misty decided she wanted to strike up a conversation. The check out line was long, so they passed the time getting to know one another. The woman's name was Christine. Misty felt the joy Christine had. It was contagious, and she liked that.

When it was her turn to pay for her groceries, Christine gave her a piece of paper with writing on it. It had the name of a small, local, Baptist church, along with its phone number and address. Christine told her that was the church she attended, and invited Misty and her family to attend, the following Sunday.

Misty's first thought was of being annoyed. *I finally meet someone I like, and they turn out to be some religious fanatic. Great.* Misty stopped that thought right there. She had thought Christine was great, and then suddenly changed her mind when she was invited to attend church? That didn't make sense. Misty realized that thought must have been more of her knee-jerk

response programming.

Taking a deep breath, Misty blurted out that she would see Christine at church that Sunday. She let out a semi-audible gasp of surprise at the words that left her mouth. Had she meant to say that? Did she really want to attend some church?

She hadn't attended a church service since she was 12 years old, when she went with a friend. She enjoyed singing the songs, and wanted to stay in the service and hear the sermon, but instead, she was led by an impatient Sunday school teacher to attend something called "Children's Church." She found it degrading. They did arts and crafts, sang silly songs, and sat around and talked. She wanted to be in CHURCH, not some babysitting service. Perhaps that's not what it was, but that was how it seemed to her. It made her feel like she wasn't welcome in "real" church, and that she was deemed too dense to have the capability of comprehension for such things. Since that day, she slowly began to form a dislike of Christians, and their churches. As she thought back on that memory, she almost laughed aloud. *How silly was that?* She thought.

Growing up, she heard her parents complain, here and there, about their "religious fanatic" cousins that they dreaded seeing at the yearly family reunions. Her classmates in school would pick on the "goody goody" Christian children, and television seemed to often portray Christians in a negative light. *Had I ever come to my own conclusions about these people, or do I think of them what I think, because I was programmed to think that way? Have I ever looked into it, to form my own opinion?*

YES, she thought. *I WILL visit Christine's church on Sunday. I'll take the kids with me, and even ask Barry if he'd like to go with us.*

Before she knew it, Sunday had arrived.

Seventh Installment

Meet Clarity

To Misty's surprise, Barry agreed to attend church with her and the children. In fact, he seemed quite eager to, and very happy to have been asked. Misty never took Barry for a religious person, so this was a surprise to her.

The people at the church were not at all like she expected. They smiled, were friendly, and not stiff and stuck up like she envisioned. They looked like normal people, except they genuinely looked happy. What a precious rarity this true joy seems to be.

Two of the songs they sang really spoke to Misty's heart. They were "When the Roll is Called up Yonder," and "Victory in Jesus." While she didn't understand what some of the lyrics were about, she enjoyed the beauty and the meter. She longed to be called up yonder when her time came, and she wanted to know more about victory in Jesus.

Misty was pleased, when it was time for the sermon, in that no one tried to coerce her children into leaving. Some children went to another room, following a teacher, but many of them stayed in the sanctuary with their parents. Misty liked that, and enjoyed having her children with her. They sat so nicely, and only had to be taken out for a potty break once. They each got to look at their own hymnal, and Bible, both of which were supplied in pockets on the back of the pew in front of them.

The sermon seemed as if it were designed specifically for her, and what she had been longing to hear. The first key scripture the pastor read, was Isaiah 6:8-10:

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."

This reminded Misty of the mist she felt surrounded her. It was like her ears were heavy, and her eyes were shut. The pastor then paralleled the above Scripture with Acts 28:26-27:

"Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

This is what I lack. This is what I've been looking for. I don't want to be surrounded by this confusion anymore, by this cloud that closes my eyes and dulls my hearing. I want to be converted. I want to be healed. As Misty thought these things, another thought came to her mind, about some of the struggles in her life, and how sometimes she would feel mad at God. It was almost as if the pastor read her mind, because the next Scripture he preached from was Isaiah 55:6-11:

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

I'm seeking now, Lord. I'm seeking with all my heart. I don't know Your thoughts or ways, I can't fathom the depths of Your love and wisdom. Lord, I need you to save me. Please, pull this cloud off me. I want to see, and I want to hear. I want to know the truth. Show what it is you want of me. What am I supposed to do?

The preacher asked the congregation to turn to Acts 8:35-39:

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

While Misty's physical vision was beginning to become blurred with tears, her spiritual eyes were fluttering open. She was seeing and hearing.

On to Romans 6:23:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

I'm a sinner. I know that, Lord. I don't deserve heaven. I fully deserve hell. I've done so much bad in my life. I ask You, Lord, give me this gift of eternal life. I don't deserve heaven, but I want to be there when it's time, and I want to spend eternity with You.

And they read Romans 10:9-10

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Right after the sermon was ended, the worship leader led the congregation to sing the song called "Come to Jesus." These words pulled at Misty's heart with almost a physical force:

"Weak and wounded sinner
Lost and left to die

O, raise your head, for love is passing by
Come to Jesus
Come to Jesus
Come to Jesus and live!"

She could hold herself in that pew no longer. With mascara running down her cheeks and with unchecked tears falling from her eyes, she somehow managed to step forward, and walk up to the alter.

It was like she wasn't moving her feet, but that they were moving of their own accord. Her mind raced - *What's going on? What am I doing? Lord, is this You prompting me? Is this what I'm supposed to do?*

When she came up front, the pastor came right up to her, and rested his hand on her shoulder. Before he was able to say a word, the words rushed from Misty's mouth: "I want to come to Jesus."

The pastor then told her the Greatest True Story Ever Told. It was about God sending His Son Jesus Christ, to this earth, with the purpose of saving His children. People were sinning against God every day, and the wages for sin, any sin, is death. People used to sacrifice animals to pay the death penalty, but it was never good enough. God, in the form of Jesus Christ, sacrificed Himself. He allowed Himself to be crucified, to pay the death penalty for our sins. We need simply to believe on this, and we will be saved.

Misty said she didn't fully understand a lot of that, and wanted to know more. The pastor patted her on the back, and said "That's why the Good Lord gave us the Bible. Read it, and you will increase in wisdom and faith. Your questions will get their answers in turn. You just keep seeking out the Lord, and He will reveal Himself to you, repeatedly. He loves you. He loves you so much, that He died for you. Do you believe this?"

"Yes," Misty cried. "I believe Jesus Christ died to pay for my sins, so that I can have eternal life."

"Then pray this prayer with me..."

Dear Lord,

I believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth, born of the virgin Mary, and that He is the Son of God. I believe Jesus died on the cross, to pay the death penalty for my sins, and I accept that gift. I believe Jesus rose from the dead three days later, and that I, too, will be resurrected when the time comes. I believe Jesus is Lord, and I ask that Jesus come into my heart and life, and be the Lord of my life from this moment on, forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The feeling that came over Misty was indescribable. "Feeling" isn't the right word. It wasn't an emotion, and it wasn't a physical sensation. It was a difference. The mist was GONE. Gone also were the anger and depression she was always trying to hold back. She felt fresh and new. She didn't feel alone anymore. She felt like God was with her. Pastor explained that when she accepted Jesus, which the Bible calls being "born again," or "saved," the Holy Spirit of God came into her heart, and will be with her always, to comfort, help, and guide her.

Just as she was heading back to her seat, Pastor asked, "your name is Misty, isn't it?"

"No, my name is Clarity." she replied.

Family and Femininity

Biblical Femininity

Like many chapters a Christian Homemaker may pen, Biblical Femininity is not only unpopular, but also politically incorrect. In this generation, feminism has been ingrained into most of us since our youth. What the world calls "feminism," is, in fact, women trying to be more like men - "masculinism."

The world tells us that women can have it all. They can have the power career, the husband, children, and home. Some women seem to live to rub their success in men's faces.

As Christians, we know it's our duty to follow not the world, but the very Word of God - the Holy Bible. The Lord willed that His Word be written, so that we can KNOW his will, instead of having to trust a "prophet," or high-church clergy.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. -Exodus 34:27

Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: -Isaiah 30:8

Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book. -Jeremiah 30:2

Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. -John 1:45

But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. -Acts 15:20

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.
-1 Corinthians 14:37

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter -Revelation 1:19

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. -Revelation 21:5

We can read the Word of God, and know God's Will for us.

How is a Woman to Behave?

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. -Titus 2:3-5

Women are to be:

- Sober - both mentally and physically. Clear-headed.
- Love their husbands and children (which means they need to treat them with love)
- Discreet - the opposite of cattiness and gossip, which women tend toward.
- Chaste - both in dress and behavior.
- Keepers at home - this is the opposite of a career woman. It is the husband's job to work outside of the home:

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. -Genesis 3:19

- Good - doing what's right, even when it is inconvenient, humbling, or makes you look like a fool to the world.

- Obedient to **their own** husbands (not other's husbands, or pastors. Pastors are brothers in Christ, not bosses.) - the woman of today's world may find it distasteful to learn that it is God's will for her to submit to her husband. It is important to keep in mind that submission and obedience to one's husband does not mean the woman is less important. Men and women are equal; they just have different *roles*. The woman's role is what this writing is exploring. The man has a much harder role.

If you struggle with obedience and submission to your husband, then you need to pray the Lord to help you. Perhaps you think your husband doesn't deserve your respect and submission. Do you deserve for him to treat you like a queen (as many women desire)? Probably not. We all do things we are not proud of, but as Christians, we are called in our walk to become more perfect each day. We are shedding our worldly selves, and transforming our lives to conform more to the life of Christ.

The book *The Secrets of Fascinating Womanhood* has helped to transform many women's lives and marriages from a mess of weeds to a beautiful banquet. That book is now available free online. It teaches truths that are highly important and transformative. Please take the time to read that book. I believe its potential to enrich a woman's life and walk with the Lord is high.

- If we are not submissive and obedient to our own husbands, the Bible says we are then "blaspheming the Word of God." That is SERIOUS. No mention is made about if our husbands are right or wrong, whether they are walking with God or not, or whether they deserve to be obeyed. Just as long as he is not breaking the laws of the land, or the the Word of God, the wife is to submit, while being "good," - having a good, submissive, LOVING, cheerful attitude.

It is equally important that the husband honor his wife, else his prayers may be hindered. See 1 Peter 3:7. This tells us that it is not the wife's job to make sure her husband falls in line. Let GOD take care of it. It is the husband's responsibility to honor his wife, and if he doesn't, let the Lord work on him. As his wife, you are to pray, and be a model of a humble, submissive, and loving Christian. See 1 Peter 3:1.

A woman should be the opposite of a man. Men have loud, deep, strong voices. Women should therefore speak more soft, and sweetly. Men, by nature, take charge, unless they've been beaten down, in which case he should be built back up - see the earlier recommended book. Women should never try to change their husbands, or nag them:

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. - Proverbs 21:19

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house. -Proverbs 25:24

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. - Proverbs 27:15

A man is strong and muscular - a woman should be soft and feminine (she should be strong as well, but she shouldn't use it the same way a man does - see Proverbs 31).

Throughout the Bible, we see that the distinctions between the man and the woman are opposites. When a man and woman marry, they come together - they complete each other. They are like two halves of one unit - this unit is not a doubling of the same thing, but two opposite halves, which come together and compliment each other.

After you've read *The Secrets of Fascinating Womanhood*, consider following that up by reading *Baptist Women Exalted* (also free online). That book goes into much detail on this principle, with a liberal sprinkling of firm Scriptures to back up each point.

Men are to work "by the sweat of their brow," while women are to be "keepers at home."

Men are to lead and honor their wives, and women are to submit to and be obedient to their husbands.

TIP: Women desire to be loved - "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." -Colossians 3:19

Men desire to be ADMIRER. Don't nag your husband, or try to change him. The changing is between the Lord and your husband, if any change is needed. Why did you marry your husband? You admired him. Look at his good side, and remove the magnifying glass from his faults. You have faults too. What if your husband set out to change you, and focused on your faults? Yet, wives do this to their husbands all the time. Give your husband the freedom to mess up. Admire him daily. TELL him you enjoy his muscles, his strength, his strong character, his efforts at his job, etc.

NEVER talk down about your husband to others. Women tend to go to each other for comfort, when they have a woe regarding their husband. When a woman speaks negatively to or about her husband, it creates a distrust in the heart of her husband. Even if he doesn't know you've been talking disrespectfully of him, he'll sense it from the way others will subtly treat him. Build your husband up when speaking with others.

"Every wise woman buildeth her house [family]: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." -Proverbs 14:1

When you admire your husband, so that he KNOWS you do, and when you build him up, instead of tearing him down, then he trusts you fully with his heart:

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." - Proverbs 31:11-12

Forget about if he deserves it or not. Waiting for your husband to deserve your admiration is NOT love. True love is not a wage; it is never earned. Love is freely given, expecting nothing in return.

Since we've seen in Scripture that women are to have opposite roles and mannerisms from men, what about appearance and dress? The same principle carries over:

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." -Deuteronomy 22:5

There is to be a marked difference between the way women look, and the way men do. Women are to wear clothing that shows, without a doubt, that they are female.

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" -1 Timothy 2:9

[Shamefacedness - humble, not haughty. No "divas" allowed.]

According to the literal Greek translation of the above verse, a woman's "modest apparel" should be long and flowing; a dress. "Apparel" is from the Greek word "katastoli," which is a feminine noun, and means "a garment let down, a dress."

When a person is seen from behind, it can be revealed at a glance if that person is a woman, if she is in a dress.

The same goes for hair. Men are to have short hair, and women are to have long hair.

"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." -1 Corinthians 11:14-15

Covering = "to wrap around." This particular instance of "covering" is different from all the other occurrences of "covering" in chapter 11. All the other instances refer to something put on top of the head, such as a fabric covering.

The differences between men and women are not limited to just the physical, the roles, and the mannerisms. These differences carry over into the spiritual as well.

In the natural, the woman is to have long hair. In the spiritual, the woman is to wear a head covering:

"Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." -1 Corinthians 11:4-6

The natural subjection has to do with the fact of creation. The woman was created in a subjective position and the man in an authoritative position.

The Divine subjection has to do with God's purpose to teach the world concerning the relationship between Christ and His church.

Therefore, we see a double picture of subjection. One that is NATURAL and one that is SUPERNATURAL. The natural subjection was designed by God to ultimately reflect the supernatural.

Nature has established natural symbols for both the man and the woman to remind and teach them of their God given positions in the home and in society.

Doth not NATURE itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given her for a covering. (1Cor 11:14-15)

Long hair on a woman is her NATURAL symbol of submission, whereas short hair on a man is his natural symbol of authority. It is significant that in Scripture and secular history, that short hair on a woman has been a sign of shame (1Cor 11:6) and rebellion, and that long hair on a man has been a sign of rebellion (e.g. Absalom, Greek philosophers etc.)

The question is often asked "how long is long and how short is short." This question is quite simple to answer, short enough that it leaves no question that you're a man and long enough that it leaves no question that you're a woman, anything in between is "confusion" and God is not the author of confusion (1Cor 14:33).

However, God intends that more than this NATURAL order with its NATURAL symbols be displayed in His churches. In His churches, He intends that the SPIRITUAL order be displayed by Divine symbols.

The man is to remove his hat and remain uncovered while in the place of prayer and prophesying, whereas the woman is to cover her head with a veil or hat (1Cor 11:4-6).

Therefore, we have NATURAL and SUPERNATURAL positions with corresponding symbols to teach both. The natural symbol was given to the woman to ultimately correspond and point to the divine symbol that would be worn in the place of prayer and prophesying.

Therefore, Paul asks, Doth not nature itself teach you? When a woman refuses to wear the Divine symbol in the place of prayer and prophesying she is in rebellion against the very testimony, that nature has given her. Her hair "is given her FOR (Greek Anti, "like" or "corresponding to") a covering" (1Cor 11:15). Refusal to wear the divine symbol "is all one AS IF she were shorn" (1Cor 11:5) in God's eyes.

For if the woman be not covered, let her ALSO be shorn; but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn (hair cut short) OR shaven (no hair), LET HER BE COVERED. (1Cor 11:6).

Quoted from the chapter called "The Symbols of This Position" from the book Baptist Women Exalted.

A woman's spiritual head is her husband:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." -Ephesians 5:22-23

The woman's physical head is to have a covering over it, to symbolize the above spiritual truth.

Communion symbolizes how Christ died for our sins. Living water symbolizes eternal life through Christ. Christ is symbolized as a door. If we open that

door, we commune with the Lord for eternity. The marriage covenant symbolizes the marriage of the church to Christ. A woman's head covering symbolizes that she is under the Lord's authority by submitting to her husband. The angels see this power on the woman's head.

In Conclusion

Don't take this author's word for any of the above. Take it all to God in prayer. Study the Scriptures. With Scripture and prayer, come to your own conclusions.

Rules for the Wife at Home

- 1.- Overlook your husband's faults, and instead focus on his better side.
- 2.- Never nag, or try to manipulate your husband into doing things your way.
- 3.- Trust God, and trust your husband. Pray for him daily.
- 4.- God first, husband second, children third, house fourth.
- 5.- Submit to your husband's authority, and allow errors in his judgment.
- 6.- Allow him to provide for the family, and appreciate the money he brings in, and the provisions he provides for his family, no matter how little or how much.
- 7.- Spend your husband's hard earned money wisely, and be frugal. Never sneak expenses behind his back.
- 8.- Do not wound his masculine pride. Instead, compliment him on his manly accomplishments, and show your appreciation of him every day.
- 9.- A modest, feminine appearance is important. As is feminine manner, nature, softness, gentleness, and a spirit of sweet submission and dependency on the husband.
- 10.- You have a God-given career that can bless you abundantly. That career is in the home.

11.- Cook delicious healthy meals, keep the home clean, and take wonderful, loving care of your children.

12.- Your duty is to be a “homemaker.” Your job is to make your house a home.

13.- Above all, the wife at home is to exude an attitude of happiness and joy. Rejoice in the Lord for the wonderful family He has provided for you, and never take your family for granted.

The Christian Mother

When you were a child, and you came home from school/camp/playing, and your mother was there, didn't it feel secure? It was always a good feeling to come home to mom. As a child, did you ever come home to an empty house? I never have, but I know some of my friends did, and they didn't like it. I was considered one of the lucky ones, because my mom was a stay at home mom.

While I was blessed with a wonderful home life growing up, many of my friends were not. My mother was a homemaker, and my father was the breadwinner. There was never any fighting or yelling, and home was always a peaceful.

Your presence in the home carries a huge psychological impact on your children. When a Christian mother lives her biblical role, it helps to cement gender roles in her developing children. Helen Andelin, who wrote the book *Fascinating Womanhood*, believed that the rise of homosexuality was due, at least in part, from gender confusion in the child's developmental years.

When women lose their softness, and become harsh and tough like men, dress like men, go out to work like men, etc, then it becomes harder for small children to see the differences between male and female. The ideal balanced home would contain a loving, stay at home mother, and a responsible, hard working father.

When we train up our children, we don't do it solely via talking to them and teaching them. A large amount of the training comes from observation. From birth, our children are watching us. Like little sponges, they are absorbing everything. No one is perfect, so that too is a lesson the blessed little sponges must learn, but let us try to be the best mothers we can, regardless.

Dress the Part to Bless Your Heart

The issue of feminine dressing and head covering is touched upon in Biblical Femininity.

Some women don't feel the need to look nice, if they aren't planning to go anywhere. Remember, your husband will probably see you, your children will,

and YOU will.

Put on a beautiful feminine dress, do your hair and maybe makeup, don a feminine head covering, and look in the mirror and feel good about yourself. I assure you, you'll get more work done this way. Sometimes it's nice to play classical music, and light some scented candles to give yourself a boost - especially on dismal winter days.

What are Your Children Doing?

In the book of Proverbs, we learn that 'a child left to himself bringeth his mother shame.' Do you know what your children are doing right now? Do you always know what they are doing? This is especially urgent with younger children. It has been found by many homemakers, that when they give their children structure, they tend to be well behaved. When children are given free/play time, have some guidelines to go by. For example, you may designate a certain area of the house for playing with many toys, and that your children must put their toys away when playtime is over. Other structural activities you may consider having your children do, could be:

- Chores
- Home School
- Table Activities - such as play dough, coloring, activity books, puzzles, Legos, building blocks, etc.
- Quiet time (younger children nap; older children have some quiet time to play by themselves and relax)
- Reading time
- Computer time
- Practice playing a musical instrument

You can probably think of many other things to add to the above list.

Especially with toddlers and other younger aged children, keeping them busy will keep them happy, have them learning, and help keep peace in the home. You do NOT have to have children running around screaming, and making messes. Guaranteed - when children are doing that, it's because they don't know what else to do, so give them something fun, constructive and PEACEFUL to do.

In the Schedule section of the free Homemaking Management Book I have written, you may notice there are not only time slots for you, but also for each of your children. You should know what your children are doing at all times. As often as you can, have them by your side. A child will have little opportunity to act up and learn bad habits of poor attitude if you catch him before he can start.

When you are cleaning, give your children cleaning chores as well. A child can start having simple chores at around the age of 2. Age 2 is a great time to teach your children the "Cleanup Song," and to have them learn to place their toys in a toy box when they are done playing. They can also be given a clean washcloth, and perhaps a spray bottle of water, and can follow you around, wiping things down.

Older children should have chores more suited for their ages. When meals are over, does your family scatter, leaving you with a messy kitchen? Teach your children servitude and responsibility, and assign them table chores. Try rotating the following chores between your children each day:

- Clear and wipe down the table
- Sweep the floor
- Rinse the dishes
- Load the dishwasher

While your children are doing their table chores, you are doing the other chores not assigned to anyone, and inspecting their work. A young child is not going to do the job perfectly, but allow them to try, and compliment them on their hard work. They will learn. *Remember to make it fun.*

Cut the Bad Attitude

Do your children have bad attitudes? Do they back talk and disobey? It is likely that they learned some of these bad habits from you. Learn to use those smile muscles, and stop frowning - you don't want frown wrinkles; they age you. A smile is more youthful looking, attractive, and contagious. Spread the joy.

Admittedly, there are some redundant and unpleasant aspects in homemaking. This is the case in all jobs. When you are working on tasks you don't particularly enjoy, just think to yourself how grateful that you *have* that job to do. There are so many unfortunate people in the world that would love to have your monotony.

God and I Time

Years ago, I attended a wonderful church that had "God and I Time" early on certain mornings. People would gather at church, and listen to an audiotape of the Bible while they followed along. The time would be opened and closed with prayer. While that is great, you don't have to go to church to have this precious time. You can have some "God and I Time" even while you are washing dishes, or scrubbing the floor. Remember that the Bible calls us to "pray without ceasing." Try to get into a habit of carrying an ongoing conversation with the Heavenly Father.

If you have young children, then you may find yourself collapsing on the couch after the children go to bed, too exhausted to do anything else. Even if this is the case, *make the time* to get into the Word of God. Some women prefer to do it when they first wake in the mornings, while others can't, because they fall back to sleep when they try. Other women spend time in the Scriptures during the children's scheduled afternoon quiet time. Yet, others like to read the Word at night before they sleep. Make a commitment to get into the Word every day. Meditate on it, and store it in your heart. If you do this, then you'll find that certain relevant Scriptures will come to your mind throughout the day, right when you need them. Now, isn't that comforting?

Love Your Children

Tell and show your children that you love them each day. Give them random hugs and pats. Compliment them on their daily accomplishments. Create such a strong bond of fellowship between you, such that your children will not want to misbehave, because they desire to please their parents and make them proud. Your children should be able to talk to you about anything, and you should be a good listener. Show your children that as their mother, you are always there for them.

However, don't be a pushover. Children appreciate a mother who doesn't let them push her around. When mama says "no," it's NO.

There is a wonderful (free) book to read online on rearing children. It is called *The Mother's Book*, written by Lydia Child. There are a few things to disregard in the book that are Romish, however most of the book is fabulous. Measure it all against Scripture, and you'll be sure to come away from that book with some fresh motivation and knowledge.

Teaching Children to Sit Well in Church

I have my children sit with me in church. I do not utilize children's youth programs. I home school my children - I have taken their education into my hands. I follow that same line of thinking when it comes to church. I do not look down on anyone who likes youth programs, and sends their children to them, but I personally don't.

Over the years, I have met many wonderful ladies online who also like to have their children sit with them in church. Some of these women are older than me, and some are young mothers, with very young children. Below are some tips that I can give you, which worked for my family. Use what you'd like, and throw out what you don't think will work for your family...

Seven Steps to Teaching Your Children how to Sit Well in Church

1. *Your* attitude and expectations make a big difference. This is the most important step of the seven. If you expect your children to fail, they just may fulfill your expectations. If you have a stressed attitude, being worried about them not sitting well, they will likely notice it, and respond with ansiness. Relax, take a deep breath, send a prayer to the Lord, sit down, and expect your children to sit nicely in church. Don't stress about it.
2. Have assigned seating arrangements. If you have more than one child, then plan which child is going to sit where in the pew, relative to you. If you have a particular child who has trouble sitting still, then make sure that child is right next to you. If you have a child who bothers your other children, then have that child next to you, on the other side, with you between them and their siblings. If you have an older child who is sitting fairly well in church, then you may be able to use them as a "divider," to separate little ones who may upset each other during services. Have the seating arrangements planned out before church, and quietly point out to each child where you want them to sit when you arrive in the sanctuary.
3. If you home school, then try doing it with ALL of your children together, at the same time. Make sure your other children are working quietly on assignments while you are working with a specific child. Insist that the children sit nicely, and quietly, while you are teaching. This helps to ingrain

the good habit of sitting nicely and quietly when someone is speaking. Very young children and babies should sit up with part of home school, and then can be excused for naps.

4. A big mistake that many mothers make, is giving their children coloring books, drawing tablets, and toys to keep their children quiet and occupied during the sermon. If you do this, STOP. This teaches two negative things to your children. 1) That you don't think your child is able to sit nicely and quietly through a sermon, so you don't expect it of them (see step 1, above), and 2) It looks like you don't view the sermon important enough for your child to learn. Even toddlers can pick up on many key points of sermons. I can't tell you how many times I've heard my children tell parts of the sermon back to me, at age 2, with big smiles on their faces. Expect your children to sit quietly and nicely during the sermon, with nothing to do, but listen. Also, teach them to listen nicely - don't let them slump down, or look around the sanctuary. That is rude.

5. Let your children *participate* in church with you. This step ties in with steps 1 and 4. Expect that your children, no matter how young, are intelligent beings created by God, and are able to absorb and learn, even from a drawn out sermon. Make sure each child stands and sings when the congregation does. Help them learn how to use and follow along in the hymnals, as soon as they are able to read. Before that point, if there is enough hymnals in your pew, let your non-readers have hymnals as well, and let them pretend they are reading the music from it while singing. You can also take this opportunity to make sure your children know how to respect property. Make sure they don't draw on, rip, or ruin the hymnals. Make sure your children pray when the congregation prays, and stands and sits with everyone else. Children are to face forward, and not look at other children or people in the pew behind you. All your children should have their own Bibles. Non-readers can use picture Bibles. Have your children "follow along" in their Bibles during the sermon. Help the younger ones with full Bibles find the text being preached.

6. Each day, have church practice at home, until your children get good at it, and then just have practice a few times a week, or as needed. Line up some kitchen chairs like a pew, and have everyone sit in their assigned pew spots. Start by standing and singing a few hymns, and then move on to listening to a sermon. You can find free sermons to listen to online. Have your children sit

nicely, and pay attention. Here is something to try: Have each of your children stand up, and pretend to preach, while you sit there, slouched down, arms crossed, and with a bored expression on your face. Ask your child how you think it makes Pastor feel, when he sees people looking bored when he preaches. Then, have your child pretend to preach again, but this time, sit up, look him in the eye, and smile. Discuss the golden rule with your children, and that just as when we speak, we want people to look interested, we should look interested and engaged when the pastor preaches.

7. While training your young children how to sit nicely in church, you may find that they become disruptive, and will need to be removed from service. When this happens, do NOT take them to a separate room, where they end up playing, and do not take them to the hall and let them run up and down the hall while you socialize. This *rewards* your child for behavior that they know was no good. Instead, take your child directly to the bathroom, and set them at a time out, staring at the most boring, blank wall in there. When their time out is over, tell them how you expect them to behave in church, then promptly walk them back into church, sit down, and expect your child to behave. It's important not to become angry, impatient, or upset when your child acts up and has to have a bathroom time out. Just be patient and calm, always expecting the best of your child, and it will happen. After a few to several times of having to stare at the bathroom wall when being disruptive in the sanctuary, the child will decide it's better to obey mama, and sit nicely in church.

When having lunch after church, discuss the sermon with your children. You can give rewards for those who can tell parts of the sermon back to you. You can make a game out of it, if you wish. Keep it fun and special. The Lord's Day is the most important day of the week.

Home School

I can't tell you, or anyone how to home school, because each home school family is different. The beauty of home school, is that you can make it fit into your family's way of life, and work with your and your children's personalities. Do you enjoy arts and crafts? Then you'll probably want to integrate a lot of handicrafts into your lessons. Are you a bookworm? Then you'll probably want to have a lot of reading time in the schedule. Do your children enjoy nature walks, and studying the critters they find? Then you may want to have them keep a nature journal, etc.

I'd have to say that the first step in home school should be prayer. Seek the Lord's will, and how He wants you to proceed. Next, do your research. Look up home school sites and online groups to help you get started, and to see what's out there. If you live near a large Christian bookstore, then you can see if they sell home school curriculum, and then you can browse through the various books and materials.

Don't forget to learn what the home school laws are in your state. You can look up these laws, and more information at HSLDA.com.

Learn about different home school styles and methods, and different curriculums. Find a style/method that looks like something compatible with your family.

I lean towards the Trivium Method, or Classical Christian Education, with a sprinkling of Charlotte Mason mixed in. Since this is the method I use with my children, that is where I lean when writing about home school.

Two of the best books I've read on home schooling, are *The Well-Trained Mind*, and *Teaching the Trivium*.

For those with young children, ages 0-3, you may enjoy *using Slow and Steady, Get me Ready*. This book actually goes up to age 5, so if you like it, you can continue using it, while moving on to more schooling at age 3+.

At age 3, I like to get my children ready for reading and writing, and introduced to numbers. For math, I teach them how to count to 20, or

higher, if they are willing. I use homemade flash cards to teach them shapes and colors. I use ABC Board Books to teach them the letters and their sounds, as well as teaching them the ABC Song.

Some people don't teach their young children letter names, but prefer to teach them letter sounds, before they learn letter names. Do your own research, and come to your own decision on this.

As for beginning writing, I use free beginning manuscript worksheets from DonnaYoung.org.

NOTE: From in-utero, and all through home school, I read aloud to my children. I love to read, and like to share this joy with my children. Now, all my children can read, and we enjoy reading aloud to each other, as well as just relaxing in the living room, or outside, reading silently.

At Age 4 - K4, I teach my children how to read, and work more on their penmanship skills. My 4 year olds listen in on the older children's lessons for math, science, and history, but their focus for this year is reading and writing. For that, we center in on one main book - *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*

I integrate more into our home school than just what I mention in this article. We catch, study, and release various critters, take field trips, and spontaneously start a study into something that catches our attention. Further, my children learn life skills every day - baking bread, how to properly clean the house, taking care of our animals, etc. My husband gives the children various lessons on computers, electronics, logic, politics, automotive mechanics, etc.

Kindergarten

For ages 5-6 - kindergarten, I focus on re-enforcing what the child learned in K4, and start getting the child ready for first grade. We use Christian Liberty Press's Kindergarten Phonics Readers to continue reading. Once done with those, we move on to various children's books, and also like to utilize *Webster's Blue-Backed Speller* and *New England Primer*, and *McGuffey's Eclectic Readers*.

For math, we focus on skip counting, and basic addition and subtraction, using buttons. On Mondays, we practice counting to 100 by 1s. On Tuesdays, we practice counting to 100 by 2s, and I explain the concept of even and odd numbers, as well as finding number patterns. On Wednesdays, we practice counting to 100 by 5s, and work on finding number patterns. On Thursdays, we practice counting to 100 by 10s, and work on finding number patterns. Then, we use buttons as manipulatives, and I give some oral addition and subtraction problems that the child uses the buttons to figure out.

In kindergarten, we also work on oral narration. We start with using *A Child's First Bible*. I read a story to the child, and then s/he tells the story back to me in his/her own words. If the child has trouble, then I slowly re-read the story to them, and let them try again. If they still have trouble, then I ask them some questions, to help them get started.

Next - copy work... We utilize the copy work exercises from *The Three R's*. I strongly suggest that if you have children in the third grade and lower, to get, read, and use this book. It is GREAT. If you are on a limited budget, you can use this book to lead a good, basic home school in reading, language, and arithmetic. This book is for grades K-3.

As for the other subjects, like science and history - we consider the oral narration portion of the kindergartener's home school to count as history. For science, the child participates in spontaneous nature study when we go on walks, and listens in on the older children's science lessons.

First Through Sixth Grades

For grades 1-4, I personally like to use the following for the main subjects:

Spelling - Spelling Workout

Grammar - Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind

Math - Modern Curriculum Press Mathematics

History - The Story of the World

Science - Sometimes we'll use the suggestions from Christian Liberty Press, or A Beka, and sometimes we supplement with the Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia. We also like to use the Handbook of Nature Study.

NOTE: If you decide to use any of the above home school books, please get the book for the grade level of your child, grade 1, 2, 3, or 4, or level/volume A, B, C, or D. Further, don't forget to the get teacher's manuals.

For Grade 5, I use the appropriate level of the above listed home school books, with the exception of history and grammar. We use *The Story of the World* for grades 1-4, and then we move on to *The Mystery of History*. For grammar, we use *Bob Jones University English*.

We also add in a few new primary subjects: Latin and logic. I consider fifth grade to be the grade where Latin and logic are purely in the introduction phase. For logic, I go through *The Fallacy Detective* and *The Thinking Toolbox* with them. When they are a few years older, I then assign both of these books as part of their silent reading booklist.

For beginning Latin, we slowly start doing *Getting Started with Latin*. We go through this book again for the sixth grade, unless the child has a natural knack, and picks up Latin exceptionally well in the fifth grade, in which case we would move on to more advanced Latin lessons.

For grade 6, We use *Spelling Workout F* for spelling, *Bob Jones University English 6* for grammar, *Modern Curriculum Press Mathematics F* for math, *The Mystery of History* for History, *A Beka or Christian Liblerty Press* for science, *Getting Started with Latin* - second time through, for Latin, and *Critical Thinking* for logic.

The Home School Notebooks/Binders

Each of my children use their own 3-ring binder for home school. Their binders are divided into several sections, for each of their main subjects. The children keep history and science narration pages in there, along with math tips and helps, grammar and spelling rules, copy work from the white board, etc.

Before each new home school year, I set up their new binders. I go over which

subjects we will be focusing on, and then set up their binders accordingly. Each of their binders has a nice design on the cover, with their name. I did this via printing off the computer, and utilizing scrapbook paper.

The binders are used to house their notes, summaries/narration pages, and other helps.

White Board and Binder Work

We don't use a chalkboard. We use a large, dry erase white board. Colored dry erase markers are easy to obtain, so I enjoy color-coding things on the board.

At the top of the board, you'll see where we are in our family Bible study. I always keep it written there, so that we never lose our place.

In spelling and grammar, I usually don't have things written on the board, except for the occasional sentence diagram. Although, I do sometimes write spelling and grammar rules on the board for the younger children, because sometimes it's easier to copy off the board, rather than from a book. The older children do their copy work out of their workbooks; copying rules and diagrams, etc.

For math, the children write down how to do certain math problems, such as multiplying fractions with different denominators, etc. When the child learns something new in math, they record how to do it in the math section of their binder, just in case they forget, and need to review how to do it. The children sometimes do math problems on the board. We also enjoy doing problems from *Mathematics Made Easy* and *Amusements in Mathematics*. I highly suggest both of these books. They are GREAT for family math, or to add extra math into the child's course of study. They are also fun for mama to read, to brush up on her math skills.

History and Science - I write down key points from the lessons, and the children write those down in their binders. Note to mothers: *Physics Made Easy* is a fabulous book to supplement with, when teaching physics. It's also good for you to read, if you need a review. I highly suggest this book. It is well done, and easy to understand.

Latin and Logic – For Latin, I'll write words and sentences on the white board for the child to translate. They copy the sentences off the board, and then translate, and write their translations down. If the child forgets what a certain Latin word means, they can look it up in their binder, to refresh their memory. For logic, I'll often write down exercises, fallacies, diagrams, and definitions on the white board for the children to copy into their binders.

Our home school is heavy on reading and writing. My children have excellent reading and communication skills, and I believe it is largely due to this.

Other Subjects

Most of the subjects discussed in this article have been general subjects of the Christian Trivium home school: Reading, writing, copy work, oral narration, spelling, grammar, mathematics, history, science, Latin, and logic. There are probably other subjects you desire to teach your children as well. Some other subjects may be: Music, art, self-sufficiency, nature study, home economics, computer science, typing, automotive repair, politics, physical education, etc.

When I plan out each new school year, I first plan the core subjects, and then I choose several other subjects I wish to teach for that year. I then divide those extra subjects, so that extra lessons are taught to the children each school day, alternating between the subjects.

Bible Study

We choose a book to study from the Bible, and then we read a chapter a day, and discuss it. We often alternate between New and Old Testament books. When we finish a book, we decide which Bible book to move on to, next. I explain the meanings of words the children may not know, we calculate the biblical measurements into today's measurements, and most importantly, we discuss what we've learned from the chapter, and how to apply it to our lives as Christians.

We also enjoy memorizing Scripture. For that, we use the Scripture memory system from SimplyCharlottesMason.com.

In addition to our daily family Bible study, we also have morning and evening family devotionals. Each new year, we choose a devotional to read as a family. Our favorites are *Morning and Evening*, by Charles Spurgeon, *My Utmost for His Highest*, by Oswald Chambers, and *Daily Light*, by Samuel Bagster.

When we are doing a devotional that only has a morning reading, then we do the morning reading during breakfast, and then for our evening devotional, we read a chapter of Proverbs with supper. When doing this, we read the chapter of Proverbs that corresponds with the day's date. When we are in devotionals that have both morning and evening readings, then we do the morning ones during breakfast, and the evening readings during supper.

When the children are age 9 or above, we start letting them take turns reading the morning and evening devotionals aloud to us.

Reading Aloud

I believe reading aloud to children is crucial, regardless if one chooses to home school their children or not. Not only do I read the Bible aloud to my children, but I read other books aloud to them as well. We usually read a chapter or two during lunch, then another before I tuck them in for bed. Sometimes we'll sit outside in the evenings and do an extra chapter, while enjoying the nice evening breeze.

Silent Reading

When planning each new school year, I also compile a reading list for each child. These are the books they are to read during our silent reading times that we have two or more times a day. I use several sources to help me compile the reading lists. They are:

The Well-Trained Mind

The 1000 Good Books List from <http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/>

The Book Lists from <http://www.amblesideonline.org/>

I also like to add in some books from *Barron's Painless Series*, starting at around

the sixth grade.

Lastly, I also add books that I personally want each child to read for each year.

The Home School Day

If you are new to home school, then you may find yourself overwhelmed, when planning a daily home school schedule. Below is a sample home school schedule, which is similar to what a lot of families like to utilize:

Family morning devotional during breakfast

Silent Bible reading and study

Silent reading time

Family Bible study and verse memorization

Work on core subjects:

Penmanship and Writing

Spelling

Grammar

Mathematics

History

Science

Oral narration

Copy work/dictation

Latin

Logic

Alternating extra subjects

Family read aloud during lunch

Physical Education/Physical Training ("PT," as my husband calls it)

House/yard work, chores, home economics

Evening family devotional with supper

Home School lessons with dad - dad's choice on subject matter

Family read aloud in late evening

Silent reading time before bed

For Grades 7-12

I suggest you stick with using the curricula or books you've been enjoying, and that have been working well with your family. Use the level for your child's grade level, or above. Also, start adding studies on possible career choices for the boys, and lots of home economics and scientific home keeping lessons for the girls. Prepare them for adulthood. It is just around the corner.

The Blessed Christian Woman

She doesn't nag or complain to her husband:

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. - Proverbs 21:19

A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. -Proverbs 27:15

She is a keeper of her home and submits to her husband:

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. -Titus 2:5

I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. -1 Timothy 5:14

She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. - Proverbs 31:27

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. -Proverbs 31:11-12

She trains, teaches, and keeps her children with her:

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. -Proverbs 29:15

She wears beautiful, flowing, modest clothes (like dresses):

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel [katastole], with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; -1 Timothy 2:9

Katastole - long, flowing garment. (Pants are generally not long and flowing)

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put

on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God. - Deuteronomy 22:5

She covers her head as a symbol of her submission to her husband and the Lord:

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered. -1 Corinthians 11:3-6

She may be beautiful, but she is wise:

As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion. - Proverbs 11:22

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. -Proverbs 31:30

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. -Proverbs 9:10

She does not partake in gossip, tale bearing, slander, or other forms of frowardness of the tongue:

Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the LORD. -Leviticus 19:16

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. -Proverbs 26:20

The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness. -Proverbs 10:32

And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. -1 Timothy

5:13

She wears beautiful clothing that draws attention to her face and countenance. She takes her job of taking care of her husband, children, and house very seriously, and does her best to bless them, as if she were doing her domestic duties for the Lord Himself.

She is not idle, for she knows that idle time leads to idol time. She instills this principle into her children as well.

She knows that nobody and no day is perfect. She greets each day as a brand new day, with brand new unknowns. She looks to the Lord as her source of peace, comfort, joy, and wisdom, and faces each day with a smile, knowing that her Redeemer liveth, and He careth for her.

Homemaking

Emergency Quick Clean - 9 Steps

When you have a messy house, and not much time to get it into order, use the Emergency Quick Clean...

Before You Start - Get the laundry going, and reboot it as needed. After you've completed the below nine Emergency Quick Clean steps, take some time to put away any laundry that is clean and waiting.

1. Go into your kitchen, and wash your dishes. If you have a dishwasher, then use it. It's one of your many "servants".
2. Go to every sink in your house, and spray them all down with a solution of half vinegar and half water, and give them a quick wipe down with a rag.
3. Depending on the amount of mess in your house, this step may take the longest. Go through every room in your house, and throw away trash, and put away things that have wandered away from their homes.
4. Grab a feather duster, and go from room to room, dusting top to bottom. Focus mostly on fan blades, shelves, and the tops of TVs and computers.
5. The hard part is over. Grab a rag and a spray cleaner (vinegar and water, for example), and wipe down your kitchen/dining room tables, kitchen counters, and bathroom counters. This is also a good time to clean your TV and computer screens, and bathroom mirrors.
6. Toilet time. Squirt/spray in vinegar, bleach, Soft Scrub, or toilet bowl cleaner, and clean those toilets. Don't forget to clean the flush handle, under and around the seats, on the toilet bases, etc.
7. Almost done. Grab your broom, and do a quick sweep of your kitchen and bathrooms. This is a quick sweep - this means that you just sweep the middles of the floors. Don't worry about moving chairs and such, just sweep around them.
8. Time to spot mop. Turn on the hot water in your kitchen sink, get your mop wet, and then look at the floor for messy spots, and mop over each messy

spot. Remember, this is an Emergency Quick Clean, so we're not mopping the whole floor, just the visibly dirty spots. Now do this in your bathrooms as well.

9. Quick Vacuum time... Vacuum your living room and dining room. Focus on the middles. Don't worry about the edges, or under furniture. You can do a serious vacuuming later, when you get back into a regular cleaning routine.

All done. Take a step back, and look at what you accomplished in such a short time.

Messy House Rescue

Even the best of homemakers can end up with a messy home. Perhaps there were unexpected guests, a sickness in the family, or some sort of emergency. There are times in a homemaker's life when she can't put so much focus into cleaning her home, because something else has garnered her time. Through the years, homemakers around the world over have had some sort of rescue plan to bring at least a semblance of tidiness and calm in their home environments. The following is just one of those plans, adapted for the modern homemaker.

1. Gather and sort all the laundry that has been sitting. Place the sorted laundry in the laundry area, and get the first load started. Set a timer to let you know when you should reboot your laundry - or get the next load going. While your laundry is going, you can move on to the next steps.
2. What are the two tasks that you are in danger of falling behind on? Aren't they laundry and dishes? You've already started conquering the laundry monster, so now it's time to move on to the dishes. If you have a dishwasher, use it. If not, set out a drying rack or towel, and get the sink(s) ready to wash your first load of dishes. If you have many dirty dishes, then you may find this overwhelming, so before you do your dishes, do the following:
 - Clear your counter space by the sink. If you need to, move everything to the kitchen table, or even to the floor. Be careful - don't trip. Stack all of the soiled plates in a neat stack, and next to that, stack the bowls and containers. Next, line up all of the cups and glasses, and then put all of the silverware and serving spoons into a pile. Make a remaining stack or pile of miscellaneous dishes. Have these stacks lined up neatly by your sink.

Pile the dirtiest dishes into your sink first, with the cleanest looking on the top. This way, the dirtier dishes are exposed to water longer, and get a bit of a soak while you wash the cleaner ones. Pre-wash each dish, and then load it neatly into your dishwasher, or hand wash and rinse each dish, and set it out to dry. As soon as the dishwasher is full, or your drying rack is full, leave the rest of the dishes until the timer for your laundry goes off, or until the dishwasher is done. Then, reboot your laundry, put away your clean dishes, and wash your next load of dirty dishes.

NOTE: You'll be rebooting your laundry and washing a new load of dishes each time your timer goes off, until your laundry and dishes are done. When you are not rebooting laundry or washing dishes, then that is the time to work on steps 3-9. Pile all clean laundry onto your bed, and you can put it away after you've finished this Emergency House Rescue.

3. What are the three top odor producers in a home? They are 1) dirty laundry, 2) dirty dishes, and 3) stinky trash. An important part of homemaking is having a home that doesn't smell bad. You have the laundry and dishes under control, so step three should focus on tackling the trash. Go to each room in the house, and throw away any trash. Grab those empty snack boxes, bottles, wrappers and others, and put them all into a trash bag. After that, take the trash out, and put fresh trash liners in all of your trash receptacles.

4. Depending on the extent of the mess in your house, you may see little to no difference. Step four is the step that usually makes the biggest visual impact. The odor issue is handled, so now let us move on to the visual issues. For some people, this step may take the longest, but it is so important. Go into your living room and kitchen, and put things away. Everything should have a home. If you don't have places to put things, then you either need to reorganize, or get rid of some of your stuff. When we have too much stuff, we become a prisoner to it. It starts getting a hold of our lives. Too much stuff can determine how often we have guests. Too much stuff and clutter can even dictate our own health, to an extent - emotional and physical. Do the kitchen and living room first, since those are your main rooms. After that, move on to the bathrooms, bedrooms, and then all other rooms in the house. Doing it in this order will show you how much you are getting done, and will get your house more visually ready for any unexpected guest, should one stop by while you are in the midst of your house rescue.

5. If you, or anyone who lives in or visits your home has allergies, then this step is extra important. It's time to dust. Grab a duster, and dust all horizontal surfaces in your home (except for counters, sinks, and surfaces that should be wiped down). If you have ceiling fans, don't forget to dust the top of those fan blades.

6. By the time you've reached this step, you should find your house a MUCH better place again, but now we must get control of it on a deeper level. We need to combat and prevent bacterial growth, as well as feeding-sources for pests. This step will also make your home smell fresh, if it doesn't smell so already. Grab a spray bottle of your favorite multi-purpose cleaner, and a clean rag, and get ready to do some wiping down. Start in the kitchen, wipe down your sink, counters, and table. If you see messy spots on your fridge, stove, and other appliances, clean those off while you're at it. Then move on to the bathrooms- clean their sinks and counters. If you see messy spots in the tubs/showers, quickly wipe those while you are in there. Don't spread dangerous bacteria. Change your cleaning rag as needed, and always wipe down the kitchen *before* the bathrooms.

TIP: You can make your own homemade multipurpose cleaning solution. Just fill a spray bottle up half way with white vinegar, and the other half with water. Consider putting in a few drops of lavender oil to make your cleaning and house smell extra fresh.

7. What is more annoying than looking in a mirror, and noticing that the mirror is covered in smudges and spots? Grab your cleaner, and a soft towel, and clean those mirrors. While you're at it, you might as well clean the screens of televisions and computers.

8. Toilet time... Put some toilet bowl cleaner into all toilets, and let it sit while you use your spray cleaner and paper towels to wipe down the seat, lid, back, and base of the toilet. Then use a toilet brush, and clean the insides of those commodes. Shiny commodes really bless a bathroom, don't you think?

9. Can you believe it - you are almost done! Sweep or vacuum your kitchen and bathrooms, and then vacuum all carpeted rooms in your home. After that, do a quick mopping on all hard floors, and you are d-o-n-e.

10. Here is the best step of all - walk through your house, and admire all of the work you have done. It may not be as clean as you normally keep it, but this wasn't a deep clean, it was an Emergency House Rescue. Your house looks a lot better now, than it did before, doesn't it? Use this rescue whenever your housework gets away from you, and you need to re-establish homemaking sanity quickly.

TIP: On crisis days, you may want to have supper cooking in a slow cooker all day, so that you don't have a *what's for supper scramble* in the evenings. Serve simple breakfasts and lunches on these days, such as cream of wheat for breakfast, and tuna sandwiches for lunch. Don't forget to include fresh fruits and vegetables with your meals.

A Successful Morning Plan

When we start our mornings off right, the whole day follows smoothly. Have you noticed that? Alternately, when our mornings start with a sour note, that note tends to taint the whole day.

An important tool in the homemaker's arsenal is to boost her day with a successful morning. What does that look like? Just as homemakers of the past and present often have plans in place for when they need to do an Emergency House Rescue, homemakers should also have a morning plan. For many homemakers of today, a Successful Morning Plan may look similar to the following:

1. Get enough sleep. Go to bed early, so that you can wake up early. Do not stay up late, and then get up early. You need your rest:

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. –Psalm 127:2

2. Cook a healthy and delicious breakfast for you and your family. Start your day right with proper nutrition.
3. Clean the kitchen after each meal. Enlist your children to help you. Chores are good for children; it helps them to have a servant's heart, and trains them for adulthood:

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. –Proverbs 22:6

4. Make sure room chores are completed. This means you and your children should have your beds made, bedrooms cleaned, and you all should be dressed nicely. Many homemakers make the mistake of dressing down, or dressing “ultra-comfy” when they are home, because they figure since no one will really be seeing them, why bother taking the time to put in the effort. Please remember that your children and husband see you, and YOU see you. When you dress for the part, you act the part. Dress in a beautiful outfit that makes you look and feel feminine, and you'll likely find an extra lilt in your

step, and more energy to complete your daily tasks. While you are at it, why not fix up your hair, put on a pretty head covering, and perhaps put on a touch of makeup? When we put in the effort to enhance our appearance, this effort tends to carry over into the success of the tasks we set out to accomplish during the day.

5. Every morning, get the first load of laundry going, and then do an End-to-End House Tidy.

The End to End House Tidy

This simple quick clean is done from one end of the house to the other. It will likely take 5 minutes or less to complete, with the benefits of creating an atmosphere of relaxed accomplishment, and helping you to feel less harried and hurried.

To do the End to End House Tidy, just do the below:

1. Start at one end of your house. For example's sake, let's say you start in a bathroom. Wet down a paper towel, disinfectant wipes, or whatever you like to use, and do a quick wiping on and around the sink, on the counter, and on the toilet. Pick any hair off the floor, and throw it and the paper towel away.
2. When you reach any other bathrooms you may have, do the same. Also take this time to make sure there is soap for washing hands, body, and hair, that there is plenty of toilet paper available, etc.
3. Pick up and put away anything throughout the house that is not in its place.

It is simple. You are basically walking through the house, putting things away, and doing a quick wipe on the counters, sinks, and toilets. These five minutes almost seem magical, because of the benefits they can produce.

A Successful Morning Plan will help you to have a twinkle in your eye, a bounce to your step, and energy to spare. Or, at least it'll help you get the day going on a good note.

A Morning Routine

An organized Successful Morning Plan usually evolves into a Morning Routine. A Morning Routine, modeled off the above steps, may look like the following:

- 1) Rise and shine
- 2) Make and enjoy breakfast
- 3) Room chores (don't forget to dress and look the part)
- 4) Table chores (keep the kitchen clean to deter pests)
- 5) Start the first load of laundry for the day, and then do a five minute End to End House Tidy

Operation Order Restoration

Some days are just off by a bit. You have the basic frame of the day, which has kept its integrity, but some unexpected occurrences came upon your doorstep, which caused you to lag on your housework.

Have you noticed how much more rested, and perhaps even pampered you feel when your home is clean and in order? When we have a day that is a bit off, we may have meals and our other responsibilities handled, but not the house. You look around your domicile, and feel ... TIRED.

Just put one step in front of the other, go through your house, and do a Quick Tidy. This is similar to the End to End House Tidy, except you are not necessarily wiping things down (unless they need it). Begin at one end of the house, put things away, throw away trash, organize, and neaten. Work your way to the other end of the house. This generally takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

If you have dirty dishes in the kitchen, but not the time to wash them, then stack them neatly in the sink or on the counter by the sink. Putting them in neat, organized piles shows you that there aren't as much dishes to do as you may have previously thought. Further, this is tidier looking than having dirty dishes strewn about haphazardly.

If you have children at home, then send them to work on their bedrooms, and after they finish, they can help you.

It is generally a good idea to complete a quick house tidy before your husband comes home from work. Men tend to have the need to unwind a bit after work, to help them switch off from work, and on to home. We women have the ability to do this in under a second, but it can take a man 20 minutes or longer, because he probably has a lot on his mind from his day. Remember, women are more able to multi-task and switch from task to task quickly, because we need these skills for taking care of children and home. Men, on the other hand, are more apt to focus on one thing, sometimes intensively, and take a while to switch out of that mode, into another one. This is why our great inventors are men.

In other words, women juggle, and men focus. Help your husband unwind when he comes home from work, and you'll have a happier man to spend your evenings and nights with.

Many homemakers have a sort of plan they automatically do, in preparation for their husband's homecoming from work. This plan may look similar to the following:

- 1) Do a house tidy shortly before he is due home, and don't forget to tidy your appearance as well.
- 2) Don't nag him if he's late, or he'll probably be late more often - wouldn't you be late, if you came home to a nag?

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. - Proverbs 21:19

- 3) Make sure your home environment is quiet and peaceful when he arrives. Give the children something quiet and constructive to do.
- 4) Greet him at the door, and smile. What an incentive to come home on time more often, if he comes home to a wife who shows him how happy she is to see him.
- 5) Don't tell him about the day's troubles, or things he needs to do. Don't let the children bother with this, either. Wait until after he's relaxed a bit, and has eaten, and then he should be switched off work, and switched on to home. Then, tell him about the day, and what you need.

Operation Order Restoration isn't just neatening the house, but also includes bringing about a peace, which comes from order. Speak kindly to your husband and children, and think of them before yourself. When you do this, you'll be blessed by the following promise:

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. - Proverbs 31:28

Conquering the Dishes Dragon and Keeping the Kitchen Clean



Here are three ways to wash dishes:

1. Hand wash them, dry them with a dishtowel, and put them away.
2. Hand wash them, and put them into a dish drainer to air dry.
3. Rinse them, and put them into the dishwasher to be cleaned.

In conquering the Dishes Dragon, we are going to utilize all three of the above. With the below system, you'll never have a sink load of dishes sitting and souring, while you wonder when you can find the time to clean them. When soiled dishes land in your sink, they won't stay there for long.

Here is the four-step system to conquering the Dishes Dragon, and keeping your kitchen clean, pretty, and presentable:

1. When you are cooking a meal, wash the dishes, pots, pans, and utensils you use, right after you are done with them. Quickly hand wash them, dry them off with a clean dish towel, and put them away. You'll have time to wash these dishes while your food is baking in the oven, or heating on the stove.
2. After your family is done with the meal, have each of your children bring their own dishes to the sink, hand wash them, and put them into the dish drainer to dry. Use the same plates, cups, and bowls for each person. My husband wrote our names on our particular dishes, under the plates and bowls in permanent marker. This way, should someone fail to wash their own dishes, you can look under the dish to see whose dish it is.

Children who are too young to do this should either have an older sibling to help them, or you should wash their dishes, while they stand on a step stool next to you, helping and learning how to do it on their own.

You can wash your husband's dishes for him, unless he wants to do so for himself. My husband set up our current dish drainer system, so he happily washes his own dishes when he is done using them.

3. After everyone has washed their own dishes that they ate and drank from, and put them into the dish drainer, they should each clean their own area at the table. They should:

- a) Clean the table where they ate
- b) Clean crumbs off their chair
- c) Sweep up any crumbs that fell to the floor when they were eating.

4. Extra dishes - there will sometimes be extra dishes that you didn't have time to clean while preparing the meal. There will also be the serving dishes and containers you used and emptied during the meal, which need to be cleaned. Simply rinse those dishes, put them into the dishwasher, and run the dishwasher when it gets full. Wash large pots and pans by hand. This only takes a few minutes.

TIP: Always soak your dirty mixing bowls, pots and pans in hot water if you are not able to wash them right away. Just a 10-minute soak will work wonders in making the grease and grime wash right off.

All done! You have the Dishes Dragon conquered, and you'll always have a clean, presentable kitchen. Every evening you should wipe down the kitchen table, counters, stove, shine the sink, set out clean dishtowels, sweep the floor, and take out the trash. Once or twice a week, don't forget to scrub the kitchen floor, and clean all appliances.

Scaling Mount Laundry



When I was a teenager, I just decided one day that I should do my own laundry, and I have been, ever since. You should have seen my mother's jaw drop, when I told her that I would wash my own laundry from then on out. She gave me the full tutorial on the proper use of the washing machine and drier, and then stood back, and saw that I was serious.

I LOVED it! I found doing and putting away laundry to be very relaxing. Truly, I think laundry is my favorite chore.

When my husband and I got together, I took over his laundry for him. I don't think he liked doing laundry, because his clothes were in a pile, and I didn't know what was clean, and what was dirty, so I just sorted and washed it all, and put it all away in this amazing thing called a dresser, LOL. I think my husband, pre-marriage, was doing his laundry "bachelor style."

As my family grew, and grows, in both humans and animals, I have a system that has been working faithfully for me, for many years now. Below is my laundry system, and how I don't have to scale Mount Laundry, because it never builds up...

1. Each child, age five and up is put away their own laundry. Teach them how to fold/hang their clothes, and where certain clothing items should be put away. Don't expect perfection. They'll get better at it as they get older.

2. Each child, age five and up, should start doing their own laundry, unless you are sure they can't handle it. Help them with the soap, and supervise them until they are older.
3. Assign specific days for specific laundry. Doing all of the laundry on one day can indeed be daunting, even for small families. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time, right? Instead of trying to eat the whole elephant all in one day, why not do a few nibbles, here and there, each day, and the elephant will be fully consumed by the week's end, and you'll be amazed how simple it was.

Here is my personal laundry schedule as of this writing:

MONDAYS - All sheets and bedding laundry

TUESDAYS - All towel, wash cloth, and other non-clothing laundry

WEDNESDAYS - Younger children do their laundry, I supervise

THURSDAYS - I do my husband's and my laundry

FRIDAYS - The rest of the children do their laundry, I supervise, and I do any extra laundry, if needed

4. Simplify it. Especially for your children. Purchase clothing for them that is wash and wear, and needs little to no separating. Try to get them clothing that can all be washed together, in one load. This will save both water, time, and wear on your laundering machines. Try to do this for your and your husband's clothes as much as possible, as well. The more clothes you can wash in the same load, the simpler laundry becomes. Wash and wear - wash in warm, rinse in cool - that's the type of clothing we like to get. Oh, and try to use materials that don't need ironing.

5. Relax, and enjoy. When you are folding and putting away laundry, take this time as a relaxing breather. This is one of those homemaking tasks that don't take a lot of energy. I get most of my high-energy tasks done early in the day, so that I know I'll have the energy to complete them. I put away laundry in the late afternoons, when I do my lower energy tasks. Relax, and enjoy sorting, folding, and putting away laundry. It's not as bad as many people make it out to be.

Don't Beat Yourself Up

Women can be hard on themselves. We want to make the best of meals, to have the cleanest of homes, and the happiest families. These are good and noble things, and things we should deeply desire. Yet, we beat ourselves up if we weren't able to mop the floor that day, or supper wasn't as superb as we envisioned.

We look at our friends, and think they have it all together. Perhaps that is what our friends think of us. Does anyone really have it all together?

The ideal all-together woman has a spotless house, perfect children, and serves gourmet food every day. She is never tired, never gets a pimple, and is always at the optimal weight for her body type. She draws people to her with her light laugh, radiant glow, and the serene feeling she seems to exude to anyone within walking distance.

Is that you? Does that woman exist? That woman is a fairy tale, although you may know women in real life who seem to fit this picture. Recall that you don't see these women all the time. In this broken world, having it all together doesn't mean we do everything perfect; it just means we try our best, but here is the key:

Attitude. When things don't go as planned, you have two choices: You can complain and beat yourself up, or you can pick yourself back up again, and decide you'll do better next time.

Just a glimpse of a tainted attitude, due to an exhausting day, can wreck people's impression of you. Friends you could have had may not come to be. Worse still, when a woman beats herself up for not upholding her mental vision, it not only hurts her, it can also cause damage to her family.

Structure and planning ahead is wonderful, and nearly mandatory, with having only 24 hours in a day. In addition, allow room for unplanned excursions, spontaneity, mishaps, and downfalls. No one is perfect, and it's okay to mess up from time to time. You just get up, dust yourself off, forgive yourself, and move on.

Don't focus on what you haven't done. Rejoice in what you have accomplished.

*The Home Management
Binder - The Key to Your
Homemaking Success...*



HOME MANAGEMENT BINDER 101

A Home Management Binder, also known as a HMB, is simply a three-ring binder where a homemaker keeps her schedules, cleaning routines, favorite recipes, and more. Every woman's HMB will be different. Just as we are individuals, with different lives, our binders will reflect that, making each one unique. Below, I am going to share with you how I have my HMB organized, and perhaps this will give you some ideas on how to make one for yourself, if you don't already have one...

Putting the HMB Together

My HMB is housed in a three-inch thick three-ring binder. It has clear plastic pockets on the outside covers and spine, and has pockets on the insides of the covers where I keep papers.

Utilizing scrapbook materials and my computer's printer, I created a cover for my HMB that I absolutely love. I personally suggest you do not proceed to working on the inside of your binder, until the outside makes you smile. I also made a pretty spine and back cover for it. I made these on scrapbook paper, and then slid the paper into the clear pockets of the covers and spine.

I keep scratch paper in the pocket inside the front cover of my binder. This is where I write down little reminders. Further, when I run out of things in the kitchen, I write them there, and later in the week, I see them listed on my scratch paper, and am reminded to write those items onto my weekly grocery list.

The first thing in the rings of my HMB is a purple zipper pouch. Inside that pouch, I keep pens, postage stamps, a hole puncher, etc.

The first page is a title page. It is a pretty page I made with scrapbook paper, and a pretty picture I picked out.

Pages of Inspiration

After the title page, I have three pages that I printed off the internet that really inspire me. I printed these out, then cut the papers smaller, and pasted them to pretty scrapbook paper, along with pretty pictures I chose. These are great reminder pages to look over when I'm looking for some extra motivation for my day.

Sections

I have seven tabbed sections in my Home Management Binder, each with its own cover page that I designed to look pretty and be inspirational. The seven sections in my HMB are:

- Schedules
- Food
- Cleaning
- Homeschool
- Budget
- Other
- People

The Schedules Section

First is my Master Schedule. Here I keep my daily schedule, and in columns next to my schedule column, I have my children's schedules.

After my Master Schedule is my reading list, which is currently three pages long. I never finish my reading list for the year, because I keep adding to it throughout the year. Around the New Year, I transfer any books I didn't read yet to the New Year's reading list.

The Food Section

Once a week, I sit down and make a breakfast, lunch, and supper menu for the following week. We often have the same breakfasts and lunches on certain days of the week; so most of my work goes into planning suppers. I keep my menu here, along with previous menus for ideas, or to reuse.

I also keep a Master Grocery List. This is a list I compiled, of the main items I need to regularly purchase at the store.

When making my weekly grocery list, I:

1. Look at my scratch paper in the front pocket of my binder, to see what I've written down through the week.
2. Look at my menu, and write down any ingredients I need to get, to follow that menu for the week.
3. Look at my Master Grocery List, and write down any items from it that I need more of.
4. Then I make my grocery list, in order of the isles I stop in, at the store. I get frozen goods last, dairy and meat second to last, produce before that, and dry goods first.

I have colored divider pages that I purchased from the stationary section of the grocery store, in the Food Section of my HMB, after the menus and Master Grocery List. I labeled those tabbed sections as follows:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Baking
- Holidays/Other

Inside these tabbed divider pages, I keep my favorite recipes. I do not keep all of my recipes in my binder, but just my favorite, or most-used ones.

The Cleaning Section

This is where I keep my daily and weekly cleaning tasks, along with lists of the children's chores. I also keep a list of our rotating table chores, the children's room chores, and my laundry schedule.

Following that is a three-page Projects List. Each item in the list has a check box next to it. These are all deep cleaning and organizing tasks. I don't do Spring Cleaning. Instead, I write all things I would do during a Spring Cleaning on my Projects List, and then I do one or more of these projects each week. I keep all of the pages in my binder in clear page protectors. When I finish a project from my Projects List, I use a dry erase marker to check off that item. I write it directly onto the page protector. Once I've checked off all three pages of projects, I take a napkin and clean all of the dry erase check marks off the page protectors, and start following the Projects List all over again.

The last two pages in my Cleaning Section are print outs of my "Emergency Quick Clean," and "Operation Castle Clean" pages. These are both quick cleaning lists I use from time to time, when things get extra busy, and I fall behind on my regular cleaning.

The Homeschool Section

This is where I keep a print out of the state's homeschool laws. I also keep my written curriculum plan for each child for the school year, along with what subjects and materials we use, and each child's reading list.

The Budget Section

I have a pink zipper pouch as the first thing in this section. I place each of our bills in that pouch as I get them in the mail. Each week, I go over the family's budget plan (on papers in this section) and pay all due bills kept in the zipper pouch.

The Other Section

I keep a copy of all our annual family newsletters here, along with family pictures. This is kind of like a little family photo album, where I keep a copy of each of our yearly family photos, along with the occasional special photo. I also keep other papers in this section, which do not fit into the category of any of the other sections.

Also in this section, I'll often put in printed out articles of things I am currently learning about, so that I can reference back to those articles in my studies, as needed.

The People Section

This is my phone and address book.

The first page is a Contacts Page, which has the phone numbers for very close family and friends who we are in contact with the most.

After that page, I have small, alphabetically tabbed sections and dividers. I printed off blank phone/address pages (you can make these, or find some for free on donnayoung.org) on which I've written down the contact information for family, friends, and other contacts. These are kept in alphabetical order, in the ABC tabs I have in this section.

At the end of each year, we make our annual family newsletter, which we mail out to our close family and friends. I utilize the People Section of my HMB to gather the names and addresses of everyone we wish to send the newsletters to.

Conclusion

I find keeping all of the above sections in one, large binder to work well for me. When we go on weekend getaways, or vacations, I bring my binder with me. That one book has all of my main papers in it. Last year, I brought it with me to our dear friend's house in another state, with whom we were blessed to spend Christmas with. I cooked breakfast for one of the mornings,

and helped with the Christmas feast. I utilized the recipe section of my HMB quite extensively while there.

Most of the time, my Home Management Binder stays on the breakfast bar in my kitchen. It is usually open all day, every day, to various sections, depending on what I'm doing. The only times that binder usually leaves its spot on the counter, is when I'm cleaning that counter, or when I am leaving for somewhere for longer than a day.

I love my HMB. If you have made one, I hope yours blesses you, as much as mine has been blessing me.

Some Recipes

How to make Sourdough Starter

If you do a Google search on how to make sourdough starter, you'll come up with LOTS of recipes and tricks. Some recipes will tell you to add orange juice or pineapple juice to the starter. Other recipes have you add store bought yeast to the starter mixture.

The better recipes will have you stick with the true sourdough, which requires only two ingredients - water and flour. Many of those recipes will have you start by mixing only one tablespoon of flour with one tablespoon of water. By the time you have the starter active, you may only have 1/2 cup of starter, and that's about it.

I believe that it's better to have too much starter, rather than not enough. This way, if you want to give some starter away to a friend, you'll be able to.

Sourdough is a living thing, and it is healthy. Some people have sourdough starter passed down through one or more generations in their family. Some generational starters are over one hundred years old.

Generally, the older a starter is, the better it tastes, and the better it leavens. Expect the first several times you leaven with a starter, that it'll do an okay job. As your starter gets older, it will work better and better. My starter has the loaf fully risen within a few hours, but I still let it sit for at least 7 or 8 hours, because that yields the best health benefits. Don't be afraid to let the dough rise for up to 30 hours. The sourdough starter should prevent mold growth during that time, and the longer soak time will yield healthier bread.

INGREDIENTS

Whole-wheat flour, or spelt flour

Spring water

HOW TO MAKE SOURDOUGH STARTER

Many recipes make it so complicated, but it is really quite easy. Don't make things harder than they have to be. Make that your motto in this process.

DAY ONE - In a very clean container, which is not metal, mix together one cup of wheat or spelt flour, with one cup of spring water. Cover the container with a clean cloth, or a double layer of cheesecloth. Secure the cloth on with a rubber band. Set the container in a warm section of the kitchen, and leave it alone until tomorrow. Keep it away from plants, chemicals, and contaminants.

DAY TWO - Mix the batter, and add a half-cup of flour and half-cup of spring water. Cover and set it back in its warm area.

DAYS THREE - SEVEN - Every day, mix the batter, and add another half-cup cup of water and half-cup of flour.

NOTE - Around days 2-5, you may find that your starter batter starts to smell strange. Unless you see furry mold, don't worry about it. I've personally noticed that when a starter is "half-way started," it makes a somewhat unpleasant smell. By day 7, it should have a sour, or beer-like smell to it.

DAY EIGHT - Make some bread. You'll have a lot of starter, so you can experiment with a few different recipes, and not have to worry about running out of starter.

FEEDING AND CARE - Feed your starter at least once per week. To feed it, just mix in one cup of wheat or spelt flour and one cup of spring water. Keep the starter in your fridge from here on out. Put a lid on the container, but put a small hole in the container, to allow air in. Once or twice a month, pour the starter into a large bowl, clean the sourdough container, and then return the starter back to its home.

You may notice some brownish liquid floating on top of your starter. Don't worry, that is normal. That liquid is called hooch. You can mix it in, or pour it out. If your starter is a bit too thick, then mix the hooch in. If your starter is a bit too thin, then pour the hooch off.

You Don't Have to Make a Sponge

Common sourdough recipes call for you to mix your starter with a certain

amount of flour and water, and to leave the starter sitting out overnight, before you use it to make bread. This is called *making the sponge*. You don't have to do this. You can just use your starter straight from the fridge. You'll just have to allow a longer time for the bread to rise, but that is healthier, anyhow.

Common sourdough bread recipes also ask you to use 2.5 cups of starter per loaf. However, you only need one cup of starter per loaf. Just give it plenty of extra rise time (7 to 30 hours) and you will have a fantastic bread, which isn't too sour, or strong tasting.

Sourdough Bread

This simple recipe makes four loaves of no-knead, delicious, whole-wheat, sourdough bread.

INGREDIENTS

4 cups of whole-wheat sourdough starter

4 tablespoons of olive oil

2 teaspoons of sea salt

2/3 cups of pure honey

Optional - for a sweeter bread, also add 1/3 cup of molasses

4.5 cups of buttermilk

Optional - 4 tablespoons of gluten (not necessary, but it does seem to help it rise better)

Optional - 4 teaspoons baking soda (if you aren't a fan of sourdough, this seems to tame the flavor)

10-14 cups of whole-wheat flour

HOW TO MAKE THIS SIMPLE BREAD

1. Combine all ingredients, except for flour.
2. Either in a heavy-duty mixer, or by hand, start adding flour, a few cups at a time, and mix.
3. Continue mixing, until you have a very thick, sticky batter. If mixing by hand, it should be very hard to mix.
4. Divide sticky dough batter into four portions, and pat into four well-

buttered, 9-inch loaf pans.

5. Leave bread to rise in a warm place for 7-20 hours. The older your starter is, the quicker it'll rise. If your starter is new, then it may take a long time to rise. Be patient, it is worth it. Don't let your bread over-rise, or it'll fall, and you'll end up with bread bricks when you bake.

6. The bread is fully risen when the dough has doubled in bulk. Once this happens, bake the bread in a 350-degree oven for 45 minutes.

7. Cool the bread completely before you slice it. Extra loaves store nicely in the freezer.

Sweet Sourdough Bread

This is my recipe for a quick bread that has sourdough in it, and is whole grain. It is REALLY good.



INGREDIENTS

1 cup wheat sourdough starter

1/3 cup coconut oil

1/2 cup pure honey

3 omega three eggs

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon sea salt

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1 1/4 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

2 cups whole wheat flour

a handful of oats

a handful of whole flax seeds

MAKING THIS QUICK BREAD IS SIMPLE:

1. Put all of the above ingredients into a bowl, and mix it all together.
2. Pour the sticky, thick batter into a very well greased bread pan.
3. Bake it at 350 degrees for 55 minutes.

That's it. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

Homemade Buttermilk

I like to buy buttermilk from my favorite dairy, but I don't like the cost, so I only buy it on occasion. I like to use some of that delicious, cultured buttermilk to make my own.

There are two ways to do this. First, the lazy (and my favorite) way:

- 1) Buy a plastic, half-gallon container of cultured buttermilk from a dairy or grocery store.
- 2) Use the store bought buttermilk. Once you are out, or have hardly any left, keep the container, with all of the buttermilk that is stuck to the sides and bottom, and fill the unwashed container with milk.
- 3) Shake the container well, and leave it sitting out on the counter (with its lid one), covered over with a towel (to block out light), overnight. The next morning, you'll have a half-gallon of buttermilk, ready for you to put in the fridge and use.

Here's the other way:

- 1) In a clean jar, put in two tablespoons of cultured buttermilk.
- 2) Fill the jar with milk.
- 3) Shake the jar, and then put it in a cabinet, or on the counter under a towel overnight. The next day, you'll have buttermilk.

NOTE: Homemade buttermilk tends to be a lot thicker, and more elastic than store bought, so don't worry if you find it thick and stretchy. It should smell and taste the same. For some reason, the homemade cultured buttermilk, as an ingredient in homemade breads, gives a better result than store bought. At least, this is what I've found from my personal experience with it.

Amazing Bread (Whole Wheat, Sourdough)

This recipe makes four loaves. It takes about an hour of work, if done by hand, and less time, if using a mixer. I've found it takes roughly the same amount of time, whether I'm making one or four loaves. I like to make four loaves, and store the extra loaves in (slice them first) the freezer (in freezer bags) until needed. To defrost a loaf, simply let it sit out on the counter for a few hours. If you need to defrost some slices right away, put them in the toaster. I usually make my bread with my Kitchen Aid mixer, but below I will show pictures of how to do it by hand.

Ingredients

3.5 cups homemade buttermilk

4 cups homemade whole-wheat (or spelt) sourdough starter

1.5 tablespoons sea salt

1/3 cup 100% pure maple syrup

3 tablespoons real butter, softened to room temperature

10-17 cups of whole-wheat flour - You will probably use almost 5 pounds of flour.

How to Make Amazing Bread

NOTE: I suggest you set aside an hour in the late afternoon to make this bread.

1. Make sure you have your homemade buttermilk:



and your homemade whole-wheat sourdough starter:



Here is what my sourdough starter looks like up close:



2. Put in 3.5 cups of homemade buttermilk into a very large plastic, glass, or earthen mixing bowl (not metal):



3. Add 4 cups homemade whole-wheat sourdough starter:



4. Before you put your starter back into the fridge, feed it. Mix in one cup of whole-wheat flour, and one cup of spring water, and then place the starter back into the fridge. Keep feeding your starter each day until you have five or more cups of starter:



5. Add 1.5 tablespoons sea salt, 1/3 cup pure maple syrup, and 3 tablespoons soft butter:



6. Mix it:



7. Add in some flour, a cup or two at a time, and mix it in with a plastic or wooden mixing spoon:



8. Keep mixing in flour until it gets too thick to continue mixing by spoon:



9. Wash your hands, and continue adding flour and mix it by hand:



10. If you don't have your grasping muscles in your hands and forearms built up, then this may be tiring. Keep at it. After you've made this bread a few times, it'll be much easier. Keep adding flour until the mixture starts to turn into dough. You'll want the dough to be slightly sticky, like it feels when you touch the sticky side of masking tape. However, you don't want it so sticky that it'd rather stick to your hands in large clumps, rather than sticking to itself. When it starts to turn into dough, it'll have an uneven consistency and color. It will look like this:



11. When your bread gets to this point, it's time to stop adding flour, and start kneading it. Knead the bread for 10-15 minutes. If you're used to kneading bread, you may choose to knead it on the counter or table. I prefer to knead my bread right there in the bowl. Here is how I knead in the bowl... First, punch the dough down, so that it looks like this:



12. Then, roll it over, and punch it down again:



13. Keep repeating this for about 10 to 15 minutes. A well kneaded dough will look like this:



14. Grab a good bread knife, and cut the dough into four portions of equal size:



15. Use butter to grease four 9-inch loaf pans:



16. Grab one of your four pieces of dough, and form it into a gluten ball, to stretch the gluten strands one more time before patting it into the pan. To make a gluten ball, simply stretch the dough inside out, over your closed fist, like this:



17. Then, close the end of the dough, so that it's a ball. Have the ugly side of the ball facing up, and set the ball of dough into your buttered loaf pan:



18. Use your knuckles and squish the dough into the pan.



19. Next, grab the dough back out of the pan, flip the dough upside down, and set it back into the pan. See? Now the dough looks pretty and smooth, and the butter in the pan automatically buttered the top of your loaf for you. Do steps 16-19 with the other three pieces of dough you still have waiting:



20. Time for the dough's first rest and rise time. Cover all four pans of dough loosely with paper towels or a clean dishtowel, and leave them there until right before you go to bed. - Several hours.



Right Before You go to Bed

If you look at your dough, you may find it partially or completely risen already:



The leaven is working great, but your wheat is still not soaked well enough for the needed health benefits. Wash your hands, and then take a few minutes to do the following before you go to bed:

1. Grab a loaf pan of dough, and punch it down in the center to deflate it:



2. Use your knuckles, and press the dough flat again:



3. Roll the dough like this:



4. Grab the dough out of the pan and knead it for a few seconds - about 10 seconds should be fine. If parts of the dough are a little dried or hardened, don't worry. This short kneading session will soften the dough again and make it as good as new.

5. After you've re-kneaded for about 10 seconds, form the dough into a gluten ball, like you did earlier today. Then, press it into the loaf pan, and then flip the dough upside down, like you did earlier today in step 19.

6. Repeat the above 5 steps on your remaining loaf pans of dough. Your dough should look like this in their pans now:



7. Time to leave the dough for its second, and final, rise time.



Now you're done until tomorrow morning when you arise.

The Next Morning

Yesterday, you made your dough and let it rise twice. The wheat in your dough has soaked long enough. Now it's time for the most fun part of bread making: baking the bread, and enjoying the wonderful smell.

1. Look at your fully risen bread. It should look like this:



2. Time to start baking... Preheat your oven to 425 degrees, and then put the bread in. Let it bake at 425 for 15 minutes, then turn the heat down to 325 degrees, and let it continue to bake for 45 more minutes:



3. When it's done baking, take the bread out of the oven, and out of the loaf pans. If the bread wants to stick in the pan, then use a butter knife in the corners of the pan to gently coax the bread out. Leave the bread sitting out to cool for a few hours:



4. After the bread has cooled, grab a good bread knife, and slice it:



5. I store my sliced bread in large freezer Ziploc bags. I put three loaves into the freezer, and I keep one out. When that loaf gets to halfway gone, then I take another loaf out of the freezer, open the Ziploc bag, and let it thaw for a few hours.

This completes our bread-making journey. This is how to make Amazing Bread.

Making Yogurt in the Slow Cooker

Making yogurt is easy - especially if you do it in a slow cooker, like in the recipe below...

NOTE: Start this process in the evening, before you make dinner. This way, your yogurt will be ready the next morning, when you wake up.

INGREDIENTS:

-1/2 cup of store bought, active/live culture, plain or vanilla yogurt. (This will be your starter. After your first batch of yogurt, you can use 1/2 cup of some of your homemade yogurt as a starter instead.)

-8 cups of milk. Pasteurized and Homogenized is fine, but do not use ultra-pasteurized.

HOW TO MAKE YOGURT

1. Pour the milk into a crock pot/slow cooker, and turn the crock pot on low. Leave it alone for 2.5 hours, cooking on low.
2. Turn the crock pot off, leave the cover on, and let the milk sit for 3 hours.
3. Mix the yogurt starter (1/2 cup store bought yogurt) into the milk.
4. Put the lid on the crock pot, and then fold and put a heavy bath towel over the crock pot to insulate in the leftover heat (leave the crock pot turned off), and go to bed.
5. The next morning, you'll have yogurt waiting for you in your crock pot. Homemade yogurt is thinner than store-bought.
6. Pour the yogurt into a container, cover it, and put it into the fridge. Let the yogurt fully cool down to the fridge temperature.
7. If you'd like to add fruit to your yogurt, put a few cups of chopped fruit (of your choice) into a blender, pour in a bit of honey to sweeten, and blend.

Then mix the blended fruit into the yogurt and return it to the fridge to cool back down to fridge temperature.

If you'd like a thicker yogurt, then strain the yogurt through a double layer of cheesecloth, letting the yellow whey liquid drip through the cloth, and into a bowl. Do this for an hour or two, and you'll have a thicker yogurt. Straining the yogurt makes Greek Yogurt.

Don't throw out the yellow liquid/whey. Put it in a jar, and keep it in the fridge. It is great for tummy aches. It is also good to pour in on top of dried beans, before you add water, to soak them overnight.

As for the yogurt, my favorite way to consume it, is to make yogurt smoothies. I just put some yogurt into the blender; add some frozen fruit, such as strawberries or peaches, some honey, and some pure vanilla extract. Blend and enjoy.

Yogurt Cream Cheese and Whey

If you like making homemade yogurt, then you may be seeking out some creative ways to use it. One such way is to make yogurt cream cheese.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Homemade yogurt (but you can do this with store bought, if you'd like)
- A juice pitcher
- A mesh, fine strainer that can sit on top of the juice pitcher
- A double layer of cheesecloth, or some clean flour sack cloth

HOW TO MAKE YOGURT CREAM CHEESE

1. Place the fine, mesh strainer on top of the juice pitcher, and then drape the double layer cheesecloth or flour sack cloth over the strainer.
2. Pour the yogurt into the cloth - as much as you have/want, or as much fits.
3. Fold the edges of the cloth over the top of the yogurt, so that it's covered.
4. Place the whole contraption into the fridge, and leave it there for about 24 hours.
5. 24 hours later - you'll have yogurt cream cheese in the cloth, and golden, yellow liquid whey in the juice pitcher.

Save the whey to use in the place of some of the water in baking (it's great in homemade breads). If you like cooking with dried legumes, then add some whey to the soaking solution. It is also nice to have whey around for tummy aches - it relieves some tummy troubles. Store the whey in a sealed jar in the fridge.

You can add any herbs or flavorings you want to the yogurt cream cheese, or leave it as it is. It tastes fabulous, spread on Amazing Bread.

You can also make cheese balls, which makes a great side dish, or hors d'oeuvres. To do this, you may need to strain the yogurt a bit more, to make it

drier. You can add a bit of sea salt to it, to make it sweat, and put a heavy mug on it, to press it down, to squeeze out more liquid. When the yogurt cheese is fairly dry, roll it into bite size balls, and then roll the balls in any combination of herbs and spices you like. You may want to try some basil and black pepper for starters. Go with flavors you like, and enjoy.

Yogurt Smoothies

I love a good fruit and yogurt smoothie. I prefer it with homemade yogurt, but store bought works as well. Here is how to make four to five servings in a blender:

1. In a blender, put in four, to four and a half cups of plain, unsweetened yogurt.
2. Add a large handful of frozen strawberries, or peaches (or any frozen fruit(s) you choose, peach is my personal favorite).
3. Pour in a teaspoon of pure vanilla extract, and add 1/4 cup of pure honey.
4. Blend until the fruit is liquefied, and everything is mixed together. Get a spoonful out, and taste-test. If it is too sour, then add more honey, and blend some more.

Green Smoothies

I enjoy green smoothies from time to time. There are many variations of how to make these, and everyone probably has their own way. Here are some of my favorite green smoothie recipes (these recipes make four to five servings per recipe):

Basic Green Smoothie

1. Pour four cups of water into a blender.
2. Put in a large handful of frozen strawberries, a fresh apple, sliced, and stuff in four handfuls of fresh leaf spinach.
3. Blend well, and enjoy.

VARIATION - Green Protein Shake

1. Pour in four cups of whole milk.
2. Add in four tablespoons of natural peanut butter, or almond butter, or two tablespoons of each, and then the rest of the ingredients from the above recipe.
3. Blend and enjoy.

ANOTHER - Extra Green Smoothie

You can follow the Green Smoothie recipe at the top of this post, but in addition to the spinach, throw in some romaine lettuce, and cucumber as well.

SPICE IT UP

You can make the green smoothie at the top of this post, but use one whole apple, and a half of an apple, and add four teaspoons of ground cinnamon.

How to Make Granola

There are many different granola recipes out there. Here is one of the ways I like to make granola.

1. In a large bowl, put in 8 cups of oats, 2 teaspoons of sea salt, and 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon. Mix.
2. Add 4 teaspoons pure vanilla extract, 1/2 cup coconut oil, and 1 cup of pure honey. Mix.
3. Spread the mixture in a large baking pan, and bake at 325 degrees Fahrenheit for 25 minutes. Take it out of the oven every five minutes to stir it.
4. Let the mixture cool a bit, and then mix in any goodies you'd like to have in your granola. I often put in some shredded coconut, nuts, and dried cranberries or raisins.
5. Store the cooled mixture in a covered container. Do not refrigerate. This is great as a breakfast cereal with milk. You can also experiment with making granola bars, if you'd like.

Homemade Stock/Broth - Super Healthy

I absolutely love homemade stock. Stock can be used as a broth in homemade soup. It can be used in any recipe that calls for stock, of course, and it's even good to drink alone, when you're not feeling well.

You can make stock from any bones - fish, poultry, cow, lamb, rabbit, etc. Just save those bones back. If you make stock from bones from uncooked meat, then you'd be making a light stock. Light stocks are lighter in flavor. If you make stock from bones that had cooked meat on them, then you are making a dark stock, which is stronger in flavor.

Generally, I save the bones from our meals, and make dark stocks with them, but in cases of poultry, I also save back the uncooked neck, and use that as well.

We had duck a few days ago, so I remembered to take pictures, so that I can show you how I make stock...

Step One



First I gathered together the duck bones and skin, and put those in my crock pot, along with the duck neck, and some coarsely chopped carrots, a coarsely chopped half onion, a liberal sprinkling of sea salt, and a good splash or two of apple cider vinegar. I then put cold water on top. I use cold water, because as the water slowly heats, it aids in leaching the nutrients from the bones and vegetables.

Step Two



I let this concoction cook on the low setting in my crock pot overnight, until late afternoon the next day. You can let stock slow cook for several hours, or even a few days, if you wish.

Step Three



I put a large strainer over a large bowl. Both of them are stainless steel, because I'm working with *very* hot contents. I poured the stuff from the crock pot into the strainer, letting the strainer catch the duck carcass and vegetables, and allowing the liquid to collect in the bowl beneath it.

Step Four



I left the stock sitting out for an hour or two, to let it cool down some.

Step Five



I then moved the stock to a smaller bowl, covered it with clear wrap, and put it in the fridge overnight, to completely cool and set. The above picture is from the next day. Do you see the layer on top of the stock? That is fat.

Step Six



I skimmed the solid fat layer off the cold stock.

Step Seven



I then fine strained the stock through a clean flour sack cloth. You can also strain it through a double layer of cheesecloth.

Step Eight



The stock is now done. It is a flavorful, concentrated stock, so when I do use it, it will be with water mixed in. I put the stock into a freezer safe container, and put it in the freezer. This is how I keep stock until I know I'll need it, and then I defrost it in the fridge.

Flaxseed Milk/Tea

This wonderful beverage is great for your health, and easy to make. As a cold drink, it is flax milk. Gently heat it on the stove, and you have a nice flaxseed tea. It tastes good cold, and amazing when it is hot. Temperature seems to make a big difference in taste.

Here is how to make this:

1. Put 1/3 cup of whole, dark flax seeds into a blender, and then fill the blender up with water.
2. Blend well, until the liquid is cream colored.
3. Place a strainer in a large bowl, and put a large, clean cloth over the strainer. Pour the mixture from the blender onto the cloth in the strainer. Gather the cloth like a bag, and squeeze it, letting the liquid fall into the bowl. You don't need a strainer, but I like to use it to hold the cloth bag when I begin squeezing it.
4. You can put the pulp left in the cloth in the fridge, and throw it into the dough the next time you make bread.
5. Mix 1/4 cup of honey in the flax milk.

All done. Take a drink and see what you think. I also suggest you heat some up, and try it hot. It is such a delicious warm tea.

More Recipes

If you would like a lot more recipes, including meal recipes and ideas, then please read Candy's free e-book, called *The Joyful Christian Homemaker*.

Your Top Priority

Build Your Foundation on the Rock of Salvation

"He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great." -Luke 6:48-49

"The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation." -2 Samuel 22:47

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." -John 8:32

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." -John 14:6

The terms "Christian" and "personal relationship with Jesus Christ" have been bantered around so much, that for many people, they have lost their original savor. What is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Is it going to church? Is it being a "good person?" Is it via doing certain rituals, or following certain traditions? No, it is so much simpler than that.

Jesus says:

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." - Revelation 3:20

Let Jesus into your heart and life. Put your faith and trust in Him, and in Him alone.

Why did Jesus Christ come to this earth? He came to pay for our sins. Have you ever broken any of the Ten Commandments? Did you know that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that just looking at someone with lust in your heart is the same thing as committing adultery in your heart?

Many people will say *I'm a good person. Sure, I've stolen a few paper clips in my*

time, and I've told some lies, but I've never killed anyone, so I'm good enough for heaven. Don't be so sure. Have you ever felt hatred toward someone? If so, then you are guilty of committing murder in your heart:

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." -1 John 3:15

If you have stolen, lied, lusted after someone, hated someone, loved someone or something more than God, then you have broken at least 5 of the Ten Commandments. Do you really think you'd make it to heaven? Not according to God's Word:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous {sinful} shall not inherit the kingdom of God {or go to heaven when they die}? Be not deceived: neither fornicators {sex outside of marriage, or pre-marital sex}, nor idolaters {loving something or someone more than you love God}, nor adulterers {physically, or in the heart}, nor effeminate {cross dressing}, nor abusers of themselves with mankind {homosexuality}, Nor thieves {even stealing a pen or paper clip makes you a thief}, nor covetous {inordinately desiring wealth or things}, nor drunkards, nor revilers {one who assails with abusive language}, nor extortioners {black mail, or wresting anything from anyone via force}, shall inherit the kingdom of God." -1 Corinthians 6:9-10 {words in curly brackets are my notes}

But there is good news:

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." -1 Corinthians 6:11

We are all sinners:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" -Romans 3:23

Even Mary, the woman chosen by God to be a vessel that would carry Jesus in her womb, was a sinner, and in need of a Saviour:

"And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." - Mary said this in Luke 1:47. Only sinners need a Saviour, and Mary also accepted Jesus Christ as her

Saviour.

We are all imperfect, fallible sinners:

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." -1 John 1:5-8

The blood of Jesus Christ is what cleanses us from all sins. Jesus came to this earth to die to pay for our sins. You see, Leviticus tells us that 'the life is in the blood,' and that it takes spilt blood to atone for sin.

When we choose to truly believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and to live our lives for Christ, then Christ's spilt blood cleanses us from our sins:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." -Isaiah 1:18

Jesus tells us this:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." - Jesus said this, in John 3:16-18

Paul gives us a simple "step by step process" on how to be saved:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever

believeth on him shall not be ashamed." -Romans 10:9-11

Jesus is our one and only mediator:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" -1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus is our High Priest:

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." -Hebrews 4:14-15

We are to follow the Lord and the Bible, not traditions of man:

"But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" -Matthew 15:3

Jesus is God:

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." -1 Timothy 3:16

If Jesus isn't the Lord of your life, then I hope that you will let Him into your heart and life this very moment.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." -Romans 5:8

Have you built your foundation on the Rock of Salvation?

Jesus is the way. If you would like to receive Jesus into your heart and life, then let Him know. Pray to the Lord, telling Him that you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and that you believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the death penalty for your sins. Tell this to God in your own words, from your heart.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." -Romans 6:23

Believe, and Receive:

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" -Ephesians 1:13

When you believe on Jesus Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit. You are sealed as a child of God.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ into your heart and life as your Lord and Saviour, and you believe that Jesus died on the cross in your place, to pay the death penalty for your sins, and that Christ rose from the dead three days later, then you are saved, and born again.

You are now a saved Child of God, with the Holy Spirit living within you. Please get a King James Bible and turn to the Gospel of John. That is the fourth book in the New Testament. If you don't have a King James Bible, then you can read it free online.

After you've read the Gospel of John, go on to read Acts, and then Romans. These three books will bring you through the Gospel, the early church, and basic Christian doctrine. After you've read these three, then turn to the beginning of the New Testament, and read it all the way through. After that, read both the Old and New Testaments.

You should also follow the Lord and get baptized in water. A Believer's Baptism doesn't save you. Only faith in Christ saves you. A Believer's Baptism is an outward showing of your salvation. It symbolizes you being born again. When you are lowered under the water, it shows you dying to your old self, and when you are raised up out of the water, it symbolizes you being born again, as a new creature in Christ. This is called a Believer's Baptism, because, according to the Bible, a person is supposed to get baptized *after* they have believed on Christ. Anyone who was "baptized" before having faith in Christ just got wet - nothing more.

Find a good church to go to, and you can get baptized there.

Immerse yourself in the Bible. The Bible is God's love letter to you. It is also your Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

Love One Another

"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." -Romans 13:8

There were 2,713 commandments in the law of Moses, and there are 1,050 commandments in the New Testament. Yet, we find that we can fulfill all of the law in one word - LOVE. Love is so strong, that it is compared to God - "God is love." Love is not God, but God is, Himself, the very embodiment of love. We cannot love without the Lord. Love is imperfect without God being in it. Christian love goes much beyond some mere feeling. It's the love of putting others before you, and serving them. This isn't done to obtain entrance into heaven, but done because we want to.

On the surface, love seems like an easy thing. When we look deeper, we quickly find this is not the case. The Bible calls Christians to love everyone, but to especially love and care for fellow Christians. Not only do Christians have people of the world biting at them in hatred, but sadly, we look around and see Christians backbiting Christians. We know this should not be so.

Backbitings and hatings are not at all a surprise from people of the world. The Bible says that the unsaved will do this:

"Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips." -Romans 3:13

What of Christians? Heed the below, Christians. This is serious stuff:

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." -James 1:26

Have you ever let your tongue go unbridled, and showed the opposite of Christian love to another Christian? Have you done this to a non-Christian? For the Christian, neither action is acceptable, as clearly stated in the above Scripture.

Jesus teaches that you can recognize a Christian by their fruits:

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good **fruit**; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful **works**? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." -Matthew 7:17-23

Using the above imagery, a Christian is a Christian tree, and should therefore produce Christian fruits. Just as an apple tree produces apples, and not pears, so a Christian should produce Christian fruit, not the works of the world. There is a subtle distinction between fruits and works, as is demonstrated below.

"Now the **works** of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." -Galatians 5:19-25

The Christian shows their faith by their fruits. The fruits of a Christian appear as works, and that is why the book of James says the following:

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." -James 2:17-18

What *are* these works that show our faith, - these Christian fruits? The same chapter tells us:

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy

neighbour as thyself, ye do well." -James 2:8

Let us now return to Galatians chapter 5, where we saw the Scripture list the fruits of the Spirit, versus the works of the flesh. What works are NOT of Christian love, but of the world, and hateful? Let us look more at Galatians chapter 5 for a small sampling:

"But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." -Galatians 5:15

Sisters, the above Scripture isn't written to non-believers, but to Christians. If CHRISTIANS bite and devour one another... How do you feel when someone verbally, and personally attacks you? The Golden Rule is this:

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." -Matthew 7:12

Ah, so loving one another (which fulfills the law) means we treat others as we wish to be treated, whether they are treating us lovingly, or not. We love ourselves, and we are called by the Lord to love others. We're talking Godly love here - this is serious.

Moving on with another Scripture from Galatians chapter 5:

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." -Galatians 5:26

Have you ever tried to provoke another Christian? A common way to provoke is to verbally attack. Have you ever envied another Christian? This shows unthankfulness. Look at the blessings the Lord has given YOU, and be thankful.

Dear reader, I don't know about you, but I know that I've been guilty of all of the above. The beauty of the Christian walk is that we continue to grow in the Lord, when we keep our focus on Him.

YOU are responsible for every word that proceeds from your mouth (this includes what you type on the internet - see Mark 7:15-23). Sisters, take heed

of the below warning:

"A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." -Matthew 12:35-37

When the Lord asks you why you spread vicious gossip, or falsely accused a fellow member of the Body of Christ, what are you going to say? Will you put the blame on them? What?! *Were they not acting the way you thought they should act?* The responsibility for what you SAY/WRITE, and what you THINK, and what is in YOUR HEART falls solely on YOUR shoulders, and no one else's.

The Lord knows what you're thinking. He knows what's in your heart.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." -Hebrews 4:12

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

"I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." -Jeremiah 17:10

I'm guilty of the above sins - I've spoken ill of others in the past, and I have not always loved others. Are you guilty of this, too? I accept full responsibility for my words. I did it; I said it. I have also repented of it, and so can you:

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." -1John 1:7-9

I have repented, and confessed my sin to the Lord. I am cleansed, and you can be, too. If you are a Christian, just follow the steps outlined in the above Scripture, and you too will be forgiven by the Heavenly Father.

God bless you, my sisters in Christ. When we falter on our walk, we must repent, learn from our mistakes, and return our focus back to the Holy Father, our Lord, and God.

Don't forget to read from the Bible daily. It is The Sword of the Spirit.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." -Ephesians 6:17

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." -Romans 10:17

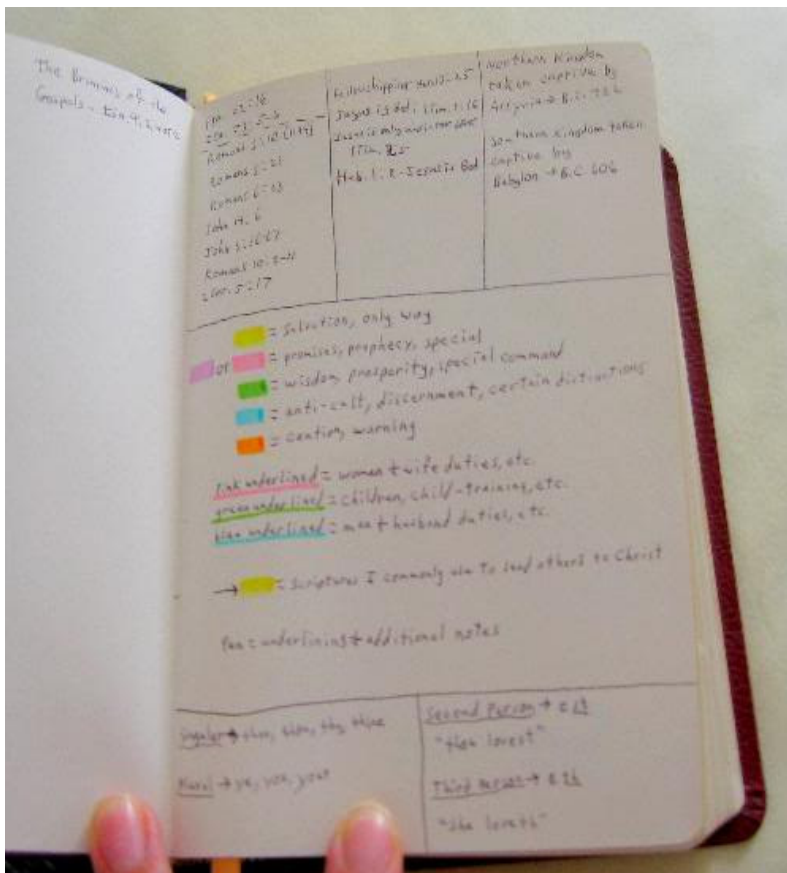
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." -Psalm 119:105

How to Mark Your Bible

There are many different ways to mark your Bible. Different people have different systems. If you would like to mark your Bible, but are lacking an organized Bible marking system, then you may want to see my system, to help give you ideas. If you like, you can use my system, or use it to help you create your own.

Here is how I mark my Bible

On one of the first blank pages, I write in the date I was saved and the date I was baptized. I do this in all of my Bibles. On another one of the blank pages in the front of the Bible, I made a Marking Key:



The Marking Key

Note: You'll need yellow, pink, green, blue, and orange highlighters, and a good pen.

Verses highlighted in yellow = salvation, Jesus is the only way

For example

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - John 3:16

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. -John 14:6

Verses highlighted in pink or purple = promises, prophecy, special

For example

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. -Matthew 11:28

Verses highlighted in green = wisdom, prosperity, special command

For example

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? -Jeremiah 17:9

Verses highlighted in blue = anti-cult, discernment, certain distinctions

For example

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. -John 6:63

Verses highlighted in orange = caution, warning

for example

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. -Revelation 20:15

The focus here is not to highlight every verse in your Bible, but to just highlight the verses that really speak to you. You are marking YOUR Bible, for YOU, so make it personal.

Next, use the tip of your highlighters to underline certain verses as well:

Verses underlined in pink = women and wife duties, etc
 Verses underlined in green = children, child training, etc.
 Verses underlined in blue = men and husband duties, etc.

Make any other notes on this Key page, for any other type of highlighting you may choose to do. For example, I also have this:

Verses highlighted in yellow, with a black arrow pointing at them = Scriptures I commonly like to use to lead others to Christ.

Lastly, in my Key, I have this:

Pen = underlining and written notes

I sometimes like to underline verses, or portions of verses in plain pen. In addition, I often write my own notes in the margins, or tops and bottoms of the pages, so I use the pen for that as well. When I find a verse that I want to write a note about, I put a little mark next to that verse, then I write down the chapter and verse numbers on the top, bottom, or sides of the page, and then I write in my note. Since I'm using a study Bible, this means that I sometimes come across notes that I disagree with. When I do, I write my notes to explain why I disagree with the study notes. If I find a study note that I think is way off, then I just cross it off, and write my note under it.

Other things I have written on my Key Page

I also have some little reminder notes for me, written on that page. For example, there are Scriptures that I seem to need to turn to more often than others, so I write them down on this page, so that I don't forget them. I also have this handy little note written on the page:

Understanding the King James Version Bible:

Thee, thou, thy, thine = singular

Ye, you, your = plural

est verb ending = second person. Example - "thou lovest"

eth verb ending = third person. Example - "she loveth"

Once you have your Key Page set up, you're ready to start marking your Bible. I suggest you keep your highlighters and pen bundled in a rubber band, and on a table near where you usually do your Bible reading. The next time you read your Bible, start marking it, as needed. Don't wait until you start reading the Bible over again, before you start marking it. Just start marking it now, wherever you are in the Bible. The books that didn't get marked will get marked the next time you read through the Bible. You'll probably highlight more verses, and add more notes each time you read through your Bible as well.



The Amazing King James Bible

The King James Bible is a literal translation, as opposed to being a paraphrase. New Bible translations are paraphrases, however some call it "dynamic equivalence," or "literary equivalence." One person often does paraphrases, while new version equivalence translations are done by groups of people. I'd rather read what the Bible literally says, not what someone, or some group of people think it means.

There are two main lines of manuscripts for the New Testament of the Bible. One line is the Alexandrian line, and the other is the Antiochian line. The Antiochian line is the line the KJV was translated from. The manuscripts underlying the KJV (such as the Textus Receptus) agree with 95-99% of the almost 6000 ancient manuscripts, while the manuscripts underlying the ESV, NASB, NIV, HCSB, parts of the NKJV, and most other modern versions use the manuscripts (such as the Vaticanus and Sianaticus) that disagree with 99% of the almost 6000 manuscripts. Furthermore, these Alexandrian manuscripts even disagree with each other. One of the Alexandrian line manuscripts was found in a trashcan. Maybe it should have stayed there.

Many people think that the KJV, NKJV, NASB, ESV, HCSB, NIV, and other translations all say the same thing, but they don't. New Bible translations remove parts of verses, and sometimes, whole verses from the Bible. They also have some verses in them that say the opposite of the KJV, and most of the 6,000 ancient manuscripts. The below chart is just a small sampling of some of these discrepancies. There are literally thousands of changes that the new Bible versions have taken upon themselves, in moving away from the time honored King James Version, and the true originals of the Bible.

Skewed study Bible notes, and biased books will claim that the new Bible versions were translated from the "oldest texts." That, my friend, is a play on words. They were translated from the texts on the oldest materials, yes, because no one would touch those corrupted texts, so they didn't wear out. However, the oldest *words* are the texts underlying the King James Bible, NOT the new Bible versions.

Another devious thing that some study Bibles and related books will do, is say that certain new versions are translated from the "majority texts," when in fact

they are not. In today's corrupted science of textual criticism, many scholars refer to the minority Alexandrian texts as the "majority." They claim that the Antiochian line cannot be the majority, because 99% of the texts say the same thing, therefore all must have come from one source. These scholars are right on part of that - the 6000 manuscripts did come from one source - the ORIGINALS. The scholars disregard the true majority manuscripts that underlie the KJV, and instead call the handful of corrupted manuscripts underlying the NIV, ESV, and others, as "the majority." It's a deceptive word game, calling the minority the majority. Look out for Study Bibles that are King James, but have notes that side with the new versions, and say "the majority texts say..." They are playing the word game mentioned above.

Take a look at the below chart, and decide which Bible you will trust:

Verse	King James Version	New Bible Versions
Psalms 10:4-5	The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. <u>His ways are always grievous</u> ; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them.	In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. <u>His ways are always prosperous</u> ; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies. - NIV and other new Bible versions
Proverbs 26:22	The words of a talebearer <u>are as wounds</u> , and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.	The words of a whisperer <u>are like dainty morsels</u> , And they go down into the innermost parts of the body. - NASB and other new Bible versions
Psalms 29:9	The voice of the LORD <u>maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests</u> : and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.	The voice of the LORD <u>twists the oaks and strips the forests bare</u> . And in his temple all cry, "Glory!" - NIV and other new Bible versions
Psalms 12:6-7	The words of the LORD {subject = words of the Lord} are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified	The words of the LORD {subject = words of the Lord} are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the

	seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, <u>thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.</u>	ground, purified seven times. You, O LORD, will keep them; <u>you will guard us from this generation forever.</u> -ESV and other new Bible versions
1 John 5:7-8	For there are three that bear record in heaven, <u>the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.</u> And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.	For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. - NIV and other new Bible versions
Matthew 18:11	For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.	THIS VERSE IS OMITTED from the NIV and many other new Bible versions.
Matthew 17:21	Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.	THIS VERSE IS OMITTED from the NIV and many other new Bible versions.
Matthew 25:13	Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour <u>wherein the Son of man cometh.</u>	Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour. -NASB and other new Bible versions
Mark 10:24	And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, <u>Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!</u>	But the disciples were astonished at His words. Again Jesus said to them, " <u>Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!</u> " -HCSB and other new Bible versions
Luke 2:33	And <u>Joseph</u> and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.	And his <u>father</u> and his mother marveled at what was said about him. -ESV and other new Bible versions

Genesis 3:15 (first Bible prophecy of Christ)	And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; <u>it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.</u>	I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: <u>she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.</u> -the Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims Bible (not a new version, but corrupt, none-the-less)
Luke 4:4	And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.	But Jesus answered him, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone. -HCSB and other new Bible versions
Luke 4:8	And Jesus answered and said unto him, <u>Get thee behind me, Satan:</u> for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.	Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" -NIV and other new Bible versions
John 6:47	Verily, verily, I say unto you, <u>He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.</u>	"Truly, truly, I say to you, <u>he who believes has eternal life.</u> -NASB and other new Bible versions
Acts 8:37	And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.	THIS VERSE IS OMMITED from the ESV and other new Bible versions
Colossians 1:14	In whom we have redemption <u>through his blood</u> , even the forgiveness of sins:	in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. -ESV and other new Bible versions
1 Timothy 3:16	And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: <u>God</u> was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of	Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: <u>He</u> appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was

	angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.	seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. -NIV and other new Bible versions
1 Timothy 6:5	Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness : from such withdraw thyself.	and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain . -ESV and other new Bible versions
1 John 4:3	And every spirit that confesseth not that <u>Jesus Christ is come in the flesh</u> is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.	But every spirit who does not confess <u>Jesus</u> is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist; you have heard that he is coming, and he is already in the world now. -HCSB and other new Bible versions
Revelation 21:24	And <u>the nations of them which are saved</u> shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.	<u>By its light will the nations walk</u> , and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it -ESV and other new Bible versions
1 Corinthians 7:1-2	Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.	Some of you think the best way to cope with sex is for men and women to keep right away from each other. That is more likely to lead to sexual offences. My advice is for everyone to have a regular partner - Good As New Translation

John 1:1	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.	In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. -New World Translation
James 5:16	Confess your <u>faults</u> one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.	Therefore confess your <u>sins</u> to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. - NIV and other new Bible versions
Joshua 15:18b	and she lighted off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou?	As she sat on the ass, she broke wind, and Caleb asked her, 'What did you mean by that?' - New English Bible, First Edition

The above chart is just a small sampling. There are literally thousands of changes like the above.

What about other versions not mentioned in the above? Look up the verses in the above chart, and see how they rate against the King James Version.

Bible Believing Christians

The Christian has a great comfort. The Christian can know, for certain, what God wants from them. The Christian can know correct doctrine, and how to test the spirits (1 John 4:2-3).

The Christian doesn't have to get crumbs, tossed from clergy, which may or may not be accurate. The Christian can go to the direct source - the very Word of God - the Holy Bible.

What better way for God to convey His message to us, then to have it written down?

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" -2 Timothy 3:16

Do you want to increase your faith?

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." -Romans 10:17

You can read the Word of God, but you can also hear it, when you gather together with other believers in Christ. One of the ways to gather together is at church. I believe church is important to the growth of the Christian. It's where we gather together to hear the Word of the Lord preached, as we follow along in our Bibles.

If you don't go to church, I urge you to find one, and start attending.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." -Hebrews 10:25

In the book of Ephesians, chapter 6, the Scriptures tell us about the spiritual armor of God that each Christian can put on. Only one of the items listed is used as an offense, and it's called the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God - the Bible.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" -Ephesians 6:17

When studying the Word of God, it's important that it is under the context of the New Testament, else we can be blinded by the Old Testament law, and fall into following the Old Covenant, which was done away in Christ:

"And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart." -2 Corinthians 3:13-15

Here in America, we are blessed to be able to get a King James Bible, and to get more than one. There are places in the world where the obtaining of the Bible isn't so easy. The Word of God is precious, and it's important that Christians know it well. Unfortunately, it almost seems that since the Bible is so easy to obtain, many take for granted having it, and it becomes more of a decoration rather than something that should be read from daily. This is dangerous. As we saw in 2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible is the Word of God, and it's to guide us in proper doctrine. Without Scriptural reminders of proper doctrine, we can be fooled, and tossed into false doctrines.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" -Ephesians 4:14

The Word of God is powerful.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." -Hebrews 4:12

Christian, have you read the whole Bible? Have you read it more than once? Do you read it over and over again, so that you are always present to the Scriptures, and ready to stand in 'that day?'

"For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" -
Revelation 6:17

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" -Ephesians 6:14-17

Today is the day of salvation. If you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, I pray you'll change that. Let Jesus into your heart and life, and you will receive the Holy Spirit of God into your life, and will be able to commune with the Heavenly Father.

Why Some Christian Women are Dresses Only

Some Christian women have chosen to be dresses/skirts only. If you are not dresses only, then you may find yourself wondering why some women do this. This write up is not at all exhaustive, but will strive to chip the surface, and show you a few of the reasons why...

1) Women are called to be submissive to their husbands:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. -Colossians 3:18

One of the ways to outwardly show submission is via how one dresses. Think of it this way - people who work outside of the home often have certain ways they dress for their jobs. The way they dress shows not only their job (uniforms, for example) but may also show their seniority. In the home, the wife wears a dress, and this is just one of many things that outwardly helps to reveal her submission to her husband.

2) Women and men are called to dress differently. Men are to wear man's clothing, and women are to wear woman's clothing:

The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God. - Deuteronomy 22:5

If you see someone from behind, and they have long hair, and are wearing a dress, then you'd likely assume that person is a woman. Women should wear clothing that shows, without a doubt, that they are female.

3) Women are to dress modestly, and have a meek and quite spirit:

Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. -1 Peter 3:3-4

4) Women are to dress modestly, and wear long and flowing

garments/dresses:

In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array -1 Timothy 2:9

The Greek word for "apparel" in the above verse, is "katastoll," which is a feminine noun, and means "a garment let down, a dress."

5) Christians are to let their light shine. While that means being Christian in behavior and conduct, it can also include appearance, as well as good works.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. - Matthew 5:16

Avoid even the appearance of evil. This means not doing things that appear wrong, or going places or participating in things that can appear evil. This also includes our own appearance:

Abstain from all appearance of evil. -1 Thessalonians 5:22

Lastly, Christian women may choose to be dresses only, to be more set apart from the world:

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. - James 4:4

They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. -1John 4:5-6

WARNING: Being dresses only as a good work towards salvation, or to appear pious and religious to others is no good. Christian women who are dresses only should understand this is a heart issue:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will

abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." -Isaiah 55:7-8

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. -Hebrews 4:12

And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. -Luke 11:39

NOTE: Please keep in mind that the way you dress is not a salvation issue. The Bible is clear that there is only one way to heaven, and that is via believing on Christ, Who died on the cross to pay for our sins, and Who rose again, three days later. Also keep in mind that wearing dresses is a public issue in the general sense. If you are exercising, or doing an activity that clearly cannot be done in a dress, then please wear the appropriate clothing.

You can dress feminine, and modest, without coming out as being frumpy. Some women have tried wearing dresses, and their husband didn't like it. In many cases, it was not that their husbands didn't like them in a dress, but that the style of dress was not very becoming. Find what style your husband likes. He may not know yet, himself. You can try showing him pictures and ask him which type of dress he'd like to see you in, or perhaps you can buy several styles from a thrift store, and try them on for him.

Often, husbands may not know if they'd like you in dresses or not, but if they see you in a nice one, they may realize they love it.

Should Christian Women Cover Their Heads?

I've been all over this issue, and I studied it from as many different angles as I could.

I've looked at it from the viewpoint that the covering is the woman's hair, the covering is only the spiritual covering of the husband, the covering is not for today, or that the covering is for today, and should be observed. Which is right? I don't want man's traditions, nor do I care if women covered in history. I only care about what God wants. I don't care if the church I attend agrees with it or not, and if I cover, I don't care if I'm the only one in the world to do so. If God's Word says to do it, then I'm in.

If a woman is to cover her head - what with? Don't give me man's traditions or historical settings. I just want the Word of God, and that alone.

Well ladies, let's get into the Word of God and get to the bottom of this issue, shall we? Please open your King James Bible to 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 2-16.

2Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.

9Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Look at verse 3. This is giving us the headship order. The husband is the head of the woman. There are clearly two 'heads' in the headcovering Scriptures. There is the spiritual head, which is the authority, and then there's the physical head.

The Spiritual Head:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." -Ephesians 5:22-23

The Physical Head:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head {physical head} uncovered dishonoureth her head {authority - husband}: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered {on her physical head}, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." 1 Corinthians 11:5-6

If the above were referring to just the spiritual/authoritative head, then why should a woman be shaved or shorn if not covered? What in the world would her hair have to do with it? Do you see the two heads? They are clearly the physical head, and the spiritual head, which stands for authority.

In verse 3, we see that the woman's husband is her spiritual head. What about unmarried women? When a woman is not married, if she is still living at home, then her father is her authority - he is the one taking care of her, and while she is under his roof, she is to submit to him. The single woman who is living on her own is not under the headship of her father, because he is no longer taking care of her - she is on her own. Therefore, until she marries, if she does, her spiritual head is Christ:

"There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband." -1 Corinthians 7:34

Let us move on. Verse four makes it clear that there are the two heads - the spiritual and physical, else one would have to seriously allegorize this verse, instead of taking it at face value. This verse also makes it clear that the headcovering is not hair, else all Christian men should be bald when they pray. For a man to take off his hair when he prays or prophesies is not what this verse is obviously talking about. 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 is referring to a physical headcovering that sits on top of the hair.

Now look at verses 5 and 6. In verse 5, notice that if a woman prophesies without a covering on her head, then she is dishonoring her spiritual head - her husband. This jives perfectly with other Scriptures, such as the following:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith

the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." -1 Corinthians 14:34-35

Your women - men are being instructed here to remind their wives to stay silent in church. We wives like to discuss the sermon, and we need to do so when we are at home, not during church. Women are to be silent in church to show submission to their husbands.

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." -1 Timothy 2:11-14

This Scripture is referring to the same thing as 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. Women are to learn silently and continue being under the headship/subjection of their husbands. A woman is not to usurp authority over THE man - her husband. Notice it says "the man," and not men. Ladies, we are under the headship of our own husbands, and not all men. This is a family order, not a societal one:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." - Colossians 3:18

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." - Ephesians 5:22

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." -1 Peter 3:1-2

Women are not to be leaders in the church. This is clear from 1 Timothy chapter 3, where we are told that church leaders are to be "the husband of one wife." Obviously, that would be a man.

Women are permitted to pray and prophecy in church, but when they do, they are to wear a headcovering, showing that they are doing so under the headship of their husbands, and are still in submission to their husbands in

all things:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her {physical} head uncovered dishonoureth her head {or husband - authoritative head}: for that is even all one as if she were shaven."

It's a shame for women to be shaven, and it's considered a shame for women to have short hair. A woman's hair is "a glory to her," as we see in verse 15.

In verse 6, the headcovering issue goes even deeper, and gives us more clarification. We see in this verse, combined with verse 5, that it is a shame for a woman to be shaven or shorn, and it is a shame for her not to be covered. This is clearly referring to a covering on top of the hair - "if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn."

Let's move on to verses 7-9. Here we see why women are to cover. It's because of the creation order and the headship. Adam was formed first, then Eve. Adam and Eve were both created in the image of God:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." -Genesis 1:27

Woman wasn't made directly from the clay of the earth, but was taken from man's side. She was created to be her husband's helpmeet - Women are God's gift to men - literally:

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." -Genesis 2:18

"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." -Genesis 2:21-24

This is why the woman is to be under the headship of her husband. She was

created for that purpose. Why do you think we're natural nurturers?

Obviously, a woman can't help her man, if she is silent all the time. We have such Scriptures as 1 Corinthians 14:35 and 1 Peter 3:1-2 (conversation doesn't mean just talking, but your conversation with the world, via your actions and attitudes as well.)

Now, the mystery verse - verse 10. I'm going to tell you what I think that verse means...

"For this cause ought women to have power on their heads" - in other words - For this reason ought women to have authority on their heads. The reason women are to be in submission to their spiritual heads, and cover their physical heads, is because of what we just read in the preceding verses - because of the creation order, as we just discussed. The second half of verse 10 says "because of the angels." This is part of the creation order reason.

I'm not going to get extensive with this, but read Genesis chapter 6, verse 4. These were some of the 1/3 fallen angels, who sided with Lucifer in trying to take over heaven. Lucifer/Satan, and the angels that followed him, were kicked out of the third heaven. Some of those fallen angels copulated with women, and created demonic half-breeds. This is also part of the reason why Noah's flood occurred. Noah was chosen for two reasons - 1) He walked with God, and 2) He was pure in his generations (didn't have a corrupted bloodline). Ham's wife, however, was not, but I'm not going to get into that today. I believe the post-flood giants came through a gene carried by Ham's wife.

Angels watch us - both the fallen ones and the godly ones do. The fallen angels see the headcoverings on us, and see that we are showing that we are in submission to our spiritual head - our husbands. In the Bible, the word "watchers" is sometimes used for angels. You'll see that that was often what the Babylonians called them, in the book of Daniel.

Moving on... Verses 11 and 12 remind us that yes, Adam was created first, and woman was formed from Adam's rib, but also that men come from women, via childbirth. Who do you think have the babies around here, anyway? These verses go wonderfully with the following:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." -Galatians 3:28

Women are not viewed as less than men in God's eyes, and they shouldn't be in our eyes either. For order to remain, authoritative order must be established. The husband is not better than the wife. Instead, he is just given a different role. Husbands are commanded in the Bible to love their wives as Christ loves the church:

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" -Ephesians 5:25

Husbands are not to be bitter towards their wives:

"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." -Colossians 3:19

If husbands don't treat their wives the way God desires them to, then their prayers could be hindered:

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." -1 Peter 3:7

Ladies, we have it easy. We just have to be our husband's helpmeets and submit to them. However, the husbands are commanded to love us just as Christ loved the church, are not allowed to be bitter toward us, and if they mistreat us, their prayers could be hindered!

Obviously, we are fallen creatures, and we mess up. If you feel your husband isn't being the Scriptural husband, then take it to God, and don't nag your other half. Listen - you just need to focus on YOU following God, and being the submissive helpmeet God desires you to be. When you truly do this, and give this up to God, you will see miracles worked in your family. God will honor you for honoring Him, and He will speak to your husband's heart. Have faith, follow the Lord, and be patient.

Next verse - verse 13. This verse tells us to judge in ourselves if it's proper for a

woman to pray to God without her head covered. If we paid attention to verses 5 and 6, then we would all judge in ourselves that it is not comely, or proper, for women to pray to God uncovered.

Verses 14 and 15 are parenthetical verses to answer the question put forth in verse 13. In the example, it is shown how we see that it is not proper for men to have long hair, or for women to have short hair. This is to be compared to head coverings. In other words, just as it's not proper for men to have long hair, and for women to have short hair, it is also not proper for women to be uncovered. Woman's hair is not to replace the headcovering. The woman is to have two coverings - her long hair, and a covering on top of the hair. This is evident from verse 6:

"For if the woman be not covered {with a headcovering}, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered."

Even with the above explanation, verse 15 still trips many people up. I will quote it below, but with the Greek word for covering inserted. I'm going to show you something very interesting here:

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering {pe-ri-bo'-lion}."

Note: Notice the above verse says **a** covering, not *the* covering. The hair is a covering, but the headcovering that sits on top of the hair is *the* covering.

The Greek word for covering in verse 15, is different than the Greek word for covering in the rest of the chapter. All other occurrences of covering in chapter 11 is kä-tä-kä-lü'p-to, which literally means "to cover up."

While forms of kata/katakalupto are used for the word(s) cover/covered/covering in chapter 11, the Greek for the word covering in verse 15 is different. That word is perebolion, which literally means 'a covering thrown around, like a veil.'

This is why the King James Translators put an alternate translation for perebolion in the margin, which was "veil." Using the King James Translators' alternate translation for perebolion, verse 15 would read as follows:

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a veil."

A veil wraps around. Long hair wraps around our shoulders. A headcovering sits on our head, and covers.

If we are intellectually honest, then we have to admit that verse 15 isn't telling us *hey, don't worry about covering your head. If your hair is long, that counts as a covering*. This cannot be the case, for an entirely different Greek word is being used. Our hair is a natural veiling, but we are supposed to wear a head covering on top of our hair, and that is our headcovering. Our hair is our headcovering in the *natural*, but a fabric headcovering on top of our heads is our headcovering in the *spiritual*.

Now - verse 16... It may be easier to understand verse 16 if we read it straight from verse 13, without reading the parenthetical verses 14 and 15. If we did this, it would say the following:

"Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

When read this way, it appears that there is no church custom for women to pray uncovered. Verse 16 answers the question put forth in verse 13.

When Should Women Cover?

We know we are supposed to cover in church, and while praying and prophesying. Therefore, we can conclude that it's best to cover all of the time, since the Bible elsewhere tells us to "pray without ceasing." Further, prophesying doesn't just mean foretelling the future, but can also mean teaching from the Scriptures. Do you and your husband share what you've learned from the Bible with each other, and other people? Do you have devotions and Bible studies with your children? Do you speak to them about God? Then you should have your head covered. It sounds to me like the best course of action is to have your head covered at all times, so that you are always ready.

Covering is a submission and heart issue. I don't believe that we have to cover while in the shower, doing certain sports and strenuous exercise, or while asleep. I believe that the headcovering is for *public* dressing. It is an outward symbol, showing our submission to our husbands. The Lord doesn't need that symbol, as he sees our hearts. The symbol is there as a sign to the angels, and as a testimony in this fallen world.

What about maidens, and unmarried women?

I believe they should be covered as well, to show their submission to their current heads - being their fathers, or Christ directly, as discussed earlier in this article.

How much of the head or hair should the covering cover?

We are not told in the Bible how much to cover, or what type of covering to use. From the covering ladies I have conversed with over the internet, the type of covering used seems to be a personal thing between the woman, her husband, and God. Some women feel that God has called them to cover all of their hair, so they do. I don't feel such a calling.

Scripture seems to allude to woman's hair showing. I lean toward the side that the woman can choose which covering she wants, just as long as it's on top of the head, and it can be seen as a headcovering, and not just some hair accessory.

1 Corinthians 11:15 tells us that a woman's hair is a glory to her, and we see elsewhere in Scripture that Christians are to let their lights shine. I can see a parallel here, but not a spiritual or salvation one. If my hair is my glory, why would I cover it?

Some people would say that I should cover it for modest reasons. Here's what the Bible says in regards to modesty and hair:

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" -1 Timothy 2:9

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel" -1 Peter 3:3

Why would women's hairstyles even be discussed at all, if all hair was to be covered? It'd be a non-issue, wouldn't it?

Let's get some headcoverings...

At Wal-Mart, you can get a square bandana for 1 dollar, the last I checked. Bandanas and scarves are usually near the purses and belts; often near the changing rooms.

Take a square bandana, and fold it in half into a triangle, and then put it on your hair, but instead of tying the ends under your chin (such as you might do if you were going out on a windy day) tie the ends under your hair. If you don't like how the sides flair out when you wear it this way, then tie a knot in the center point of the bandanna that is on the back of your hair. This will pull in the flair, and create a whole new look with a bandanna headcovering.

Or, you could use a long, rectangular scarf. I've seen some very pretty ones at Wal-Mart for about 3-5 dollars, the last I checked. With a scarf, you can better adjust how wide of a covering you want. Here's how I suggest you wear one - but this is just my preference:

- 1) Squish the thickness of the scarf so that it's thinner.
- 2) Tie the ends under your hair, as if you were tying on a headband.
- 3) Next, stretch out the scarf on top of your head, until you get it as wide as you'd like it.

I have also seen some beautiful, large, square silk scarves at the store. My favorite style to wear these in, is to put them on the same way as a bandanna - fold it into a triangle, and tie the ends under your hair. This will yield a very different look, than when you do this with a bandanna. TIP: Silk scarves slide on the head, so use a few clippie barrettes to hold the scarf on top of your head while you are tying it under your hair. Then, move the clippie barrettes

to the sides of your head to hold the scarf on.

Wal-Mart also carries some headcoverings in their hair accessories section from time to time. I purchased a black one, for about \$3.50. They called it a "wide headband," but it covered the entire top of my head, and down the back a bit. I've also gotten headcoverings like this from dollar stores, and Alco.

Recently, I got up a few multi-colored crocheted-looking headcoverings from the hair accessories section of the grocery store. They are beautiful, and didn't cost much.

Other Headcovering Scriptures

I've seen people use Genesis 24:65 and Isaiah 47:1-3 as some supporting Scriptures:

"For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself." -Genesis 24:65

"Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man." -Isaiah 47:1-3

Here is another Scripture, which gels more with 1 Corinthians 11. It is the following:

"And the priest shall set the woman before the LORD, and uncover the woman's head, and put the offering of memorial in her hands, which is the jealousy offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that causeth the curse" -Numbers 5:18

This is referring to a woman who is accused of committing adultery.

Between Numbers 5:18 and Isaiah 47:1-3 we see that uncovering a woman's

head was considered shameful. This goes with the following:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." -1 Corinthians 11:5-6

Older Bible Versions on Head Covering

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

The Wycliffe Bible

2 And, brethren, I praise you, that by all things ye be mindful of me; and as I betook to you my commandments, ye hold [and as I betook to you my commandments, ye keep].

3 But I will that ye know, that Christ is [the] head of each man; but the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4 Each man praying, or prophesying, when his head is covered, defouleth his head.

5 But each woman praying, or prophesying, when her head is not covered, defouleth her head; for it is one, as if she were polled [as if she be made bald, polled, or clipped].

6 And if a woman be not covered [For if a woman be not veiled, or covered], be she polled; and if it is foul thing to a woman to be polled, or to be made bald, cover she her head.

7 But a man shall not cover his head, for he is the image and glory of God; but a woman is the glory of man.

8 For a man is not of the woman, but the woman of the man.

9 And the man is not made for the woman, but the woman for the man.

10 Therefore the woman shall have a covering on her head, also for angels.

11 Nevertheless neither the man is without the woman, neither the woman is without [the] man, in the Lord.

12 For why as the woman is of the man, so [and] the man is by the woman; but all things be of God.

13 Deem ye yourselves; beseemeth it a woman not covered on the head to pray to God? [Ye yourselves deem; becometh, or beseemeth, it a woman not veiled, or covered, to pray to God?]

14 Neither the nature itself teacheth us [that], for if a man nourish long hair, it is shame to him; [Neither the kind itself teacheth us that, for if a man nourish long hair, it is evil fame to him;]

15 but if a woman nourish long hair, it is glory to her, for hairs be given to her for covering.

16 But if any man is seen to be full of strife, we have none such custom, neither the church of God.

The Tyndale Translation

2 brethren that ye remeber me in all thinges and kepe the ordinaunces even as I delyvered them to you.

3 I wolde ye knew that Christ is the heed of every man. And the man is the womans heed. And God is Christes heed.

4 Eevery ma prayinge or prophesyng havynge eny thyng on his heed shameth his heed.

5 Every woman that prayeth or prophisieth bare hedded dishonesteth hyr heed. For it is even all one and the very same thinge even as though she were shaven.

6 If the woman be not covered lett her also be shoren. If it be shame for a woma to be shorne or shave let her cover her heed.

7 A man ought not to cover his heed for as moche as he is the image and glory of God. The woman is the glory of the man.

8 For the man is not of the woman but the woman of the ma.

9 Nether was the man created for ye womas sake: but the woma for the mannes sake

10 For this cause ought the woma to have power on her heed for the angels sakes.

11 Neverthelesse nether is the ma with oute the woma nether the woma with out the man in the lorde.

12 For as the woman is of the man eve so is the man by the woman: but all is of God.

13 Iudge in youre selves whether it be coly yt a woman praye vnto god bare heeded.

14 Or els doth not nature teach you that it is a shame for a man

15 if he have longe heere: and a prayse to a woman yf she have longe heere? For her heere is geven her to cover her with all.

16 If there be eny man amonge you yt lusteth to stryve let him knowe that we have no soche custome nether the congregacions of God.

The Geneva Bible (from GenevaBible.org)

2 Now brethren, I commend you, that ye remember all my things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3 But I will that ye know, that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the woman's head, and God is Christ's head.

4 Every man praying or prophesying having anything on his head, dishonoreth his head.

5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth bareheaded, dishonoreth her head, for it is even one very thing, as though she were shaven.

6 Therefore if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: and if it be

shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7 For a man ought not to cover his head, for as much as he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of the man.

8 For the man is not of the woman, but the woman of the man.

9 For the man was not created for the woman's sake; but the woman for the man's sake.

10 Therefore ought the woman to have power on her head, because of the Angels.

11 Nevertheless, neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man in the Lord.

12 For as the woman is of the man, so is the man also by the woman; but all things are of God.

13 Judge in yourselves, Is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14 Doeth not nature itself teach you, that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a praise unto her, for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man lust to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the Churches of God.

Here are some of the Geneva notes:

Geneva, 1 Cor. 11:5 - "But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth bareheaded, dishonoreth her head, for it is even one very thing, as though she were shaven."

And in like sort he concludeth, that women which show themselves in public and ecclesiastical assemblies without the sign and token of their subjection,

that is to say, uncovered, shame themselves. The first argument taken from the common sense of man, forsomuch as nature teacheth women, that it is dishonest for them to come abroad bareheaded, seeing that she hath given them thick and long hair, which they do so diligently trim and deck, that they can in no wise abide to have it shaven.

Geneva, 1 Cor. 11:10 - "Therefore ought the woman to have power on her head, because of the Angels."

The conclusion: Women must be covered, to show by this external sign their subjection. A covering which is a token of subjection. 'Because of the Angels' - What this meaneth, I do not yet understand.

Geneva, 1 Cor. 11:15 - "But if a woman have long hair, it is a praise unto her, for her hair is given her for a covering."

To be a covering for her, and such a covering as should procure another.

The Authorized/King James Bible

2Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.

9Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Here are some of the King James Translator's Notes:

King James, 1 Cor. 11:10 - "For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels."

That is, a covering, in sign that she is under the power of her husband.

King James, 1 Cor. 11:15 - "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

'Covering' - Or, veil.

Observations

The King James Translators had an alternate translation for the Greek word for "covering" in verse 15, because it was a different Greek word than the one used for "covering" in the rest of chapter 11. For this reason, the King James Translators offered an alternate translation of 1 Cor. 11:15, which is:

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a veil."

This verse trips a lot of people up, but it can be cleared up, when you notice that verse 13 is asking a rhetorical question, of if women should be covered or not. (We know this question to be rhetorical, because it was already firmly answered in 1 Cor. 11:5-6.) Verses 14 and 15 give us an example in nature to answer the question. Just as nature gives a woman long hair as a natural veil, so must women also be covered, with an additional covering, a head covering. Verse 16 concludes by picking up from verse 13 (verses 14 and 15 were parenthetical) with the conclusion that there is no custom of women's heads being uncovered.

Children's Church - is it Scriptural?

What does God's Word say?

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children." -Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Whose job is it to teach my children? According to the Bible, it's my job.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." -Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Whose job is it to teach their children about the things of God? It's the parent's job.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

It's the parent's job to train and teach their children; not the church's. When Judah would gather before the Lord, did the parents first drop their children off in nursery, or Children's Church? No:

"And **all** Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children." -2 Chronicles 20:13

When Judah gathered before the Lord to hear the Scriptures read, were the children dropped off in nursery or Children's Church? No:

"And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and **all** the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears

all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD." -2 Kings 23:2

Where were the children? Were they age-segregated off to different rooms or areas? No:

"When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it." -Deuteronomy 31:11-13

In the above Scripture, it was commanded that the children be with their parents when they gathered together to worship the Lord, and to study His Word. There are so many times in both the Old and New Testaments, where Scriptures were read aloud, and church services were held. Where were the children? They were with their families, as part of the congregation.

"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto **all** the holy brethren." - 1 Thessalonians 5:27

Where were the children when the Epistles and Scriptures were read aloud to "all the holy brethren?" As per Deuteronomy 31:11-13, they were right there in the congregation with everyone else.

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." -Mark 10:15

Yet, there is an incorrect premise, which states that children are not able to pay attention to God's Word, unless visual and audio stimulation is involved. There is the misconception that a child cannot sit in church with his parents and understand much of what is being said. There is a misconception that children don't wish to be in church. These misconceptions are taught to children, via others believing this incorrect premise, and treating the children accordingly.

Yet, Mark 10:15 says that "whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Adults and children are to be in church together, as part of the congregation. If we think children won't sit well in church, they most likely will live down to that expectation. If we expect them to sit still and behave in church, with just a little bit of training, they will live up to that expectation instead.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

Are we training our children to have respect for the things of God, or are we showing them that we don't believe that they are able to seek the Lord with their parents, and therefore must be age-segregated away from the congregation?

Did you know:

"Statistics clearly support that when parents disciple their own children, an overwhelming majority of those children remain in the faith after leaving home. However, when that job is delegated to the church staff, a similarly overwhelming majority leave the faith."

The above is an excerpt from the article called "Family Integration," at <http://gracefamilyinfo.org/>

"Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet." -Joel 2:16

Who are gathered? The people, AND children, AND nursing babies. Worshipping the Lord, and gathering together in His name to study His Word is a family event. Families sit down together to eat dinner. Shouldn't they also partake of spiritual meat together?

Gathering together with the congregation is a special time, and I wish to spend that special time with the beautiful family the Lord has given me.

"And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children." -Matthew 14:15-21

The multitude followed Jesus, and He taught them. The time drew late, and they needed to eat, and food was provided. Where were the children during all of this? According to verse 21, they were there with the congregation.

Where did Jesus say that children should be? When Jesus was teaching, the disciples tried to segregate the children, but Jesus wished otherwise:

"And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer {allow} little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." -Luke 18:15-16

I will not and do not judge those who choose to put their children into children's programs, but I will not do such with my children.

Some people put their children in Church youth programs so that they can socialize. Church is not for socializing, and shouldn't be viewed for such purposes. Church is a place for believers to gather in fellowship to worship, praise, and learn about the Creator. Children can socialize at potlucks, parks, play dates, visiting friends after church services are over, etc.

Kids are like sponges. They soak up the environment around them, including what is being said and taught. My children have amazed me on many occasions, by bringing up the topic of certain sermons or Bible studies from church. They listen to what is being taught.

Their minds have not been spoiled via loud music and flashy videos or puppets and such. Entertainment education carries the danger of driving the developing brain to take the path of passive learning, as opposed to active learning. When a child is trained to be a passive learner, they will need to be spoon-fed education, in the most entertaining way possible.

When a child has been brought up to be an active learner, then they are taught to seek out information for themselves, and to soak up information from the written and spoken word, with no sparkles and entertaining extras required.

Furthermore, most church youth programs follow the same, or similar educational model as public schools do, via the Dewey education system. The Dewey educational model goes against natural brain development. Its very systems and theories originated, and were designed, because of Darwinian evolution. Before Dewey, schools followed the Trivium, or Classical Education approach, which is the natural way of education, which works perfectly with the developing brain.

By educating children via the Dewey method (the method used by most public schools and church youth programs) combined with entertainment education, the developing brain can be altered, in which the child not only learns passively, instead of actively, but also can lead a child to having an "entertain me" view of life, instead of a "how can I be a blessing to others" type of life.

I believe that it is biblical for children to be with their parents during church. Further, I believe that children's ministries, like public school, can be detrimental to a child's development, and can be a blockade in both their spiritual and academic development.

While I don't judge or look down on those who choose to utilize these programs, I choose not to utilize them, and I believe the Bible to clearly back me on this issue.

Holidays, Holy Days, and the Customs of the People

Should Christians celebrate Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and other holidays? These questions come to my mind every time a major holiday approaches. I don't want to celebrate a holiday just "for the children," as there are many other special days we can have "for the children." I don't want to celebrate a holiday because "everyone is doing it," or because "that's how it's done - custom/tradition."

I do think it's okay to set apart certain days as special feast and celebration days. Obviously, God thinks it's fine as well, because he gave certain feast days as ordinances to the Israelites in Leviticus 23, and many other Scriptures under the Old Covenant.

My husband and I recently turned to the Scriptures together, to see what God desires, concerning holidays.

There is one holiday that we dismissed years ago, and that is Halloween. The closest Christian significance we could find, was that October 31 is Protestant Reformation day. However, we are not Protestants.

Baptists are not Protestants. Baptists are from the Christians who were there long before there was such thing as Roman Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Protestantism, or the Reformation.

My not being a Pagan or Roman Catholic seems to me, to dismiss me from celebrating Halloween. My not being a Protestant dismisses me from wanting to celebrate Protestant Reformation day (but I am VERY glad there WAS a Protestant Reformation. Praise God for it.)

My family uses Halloween to pray for those who are deceived by it. We also use that day as a chance to hand out Chick Tracts from www.Chick.com.

Halloween was an easy one for my husband and I to decide not to celebrate, so our children have not been brought up with it, and therefore don't miss it. In fact, when we are in the stores around that time, my children often tell me how disturbing they find all the demon and witch pictures and figures that seem to be everywhere. I full heartedly agree. Halloween certainly carries the

image of being a celebration of evil, whether one uses it that way, or not. How else can you explain it, when you are getting groceries, and to reach the canned tomatoes, you have to reach behind the psychotic murderer cardboard cut out, who is holding a bloody knife, with his victim's head in his other hand. There is NO FUN in that! It's just sick.

Christmas and Easter were harder ones to figure out for us. Years ago, we stopped celebrating Easter, and instead celebrate Resurrection Sunday. We never have done the bunnies and eggs thing - why celebrate fertility, when that day is supposed to be about our risen King and Saviour?

Before the Roman Catholic church came into being, the Pagan Romans used to celebrate a holiday, passed down since ancient Babylon. This celebration happened around the same time as Easter. It was the celebration of Nimrod's death, and supposed resurrection back to life, via being reincarnated in Semiramis's womb. Different cultures had different names for Semiramis and Nimrod. The Bible refers to Semiramis as Diana, Ashtoreth, Queen of Heaven, etc. We see Nimrod in the book of Genesis, around the tower of Babel incident. Nimrod was the founder of Babylon. The deified Nimrod was known as Baal, Bel, Moloch, etc. - depending on if you are referring to him as Nimrod, Semiramis's baby, or Semiramis's baby grown up.

That pagan holiday has been kept largely the same, in many respects, except that the names have been changed, and now it's supposedly about Christ's resurrection. This is why we have bunnies, eggs, and chicks on a day when we are supposed to be celebrating our risen Saviour, because that was part of the original pagan holiday. These things are all fertility symbols, and have to do with the worship of Semiramis's being pregnant with a baby, that she claimed was the reincarnation of her husband Nimrod, who had been killed. Semiramis is known in the Bible under her deified name, as Ashtoreth. In many cultures, Ashtoreth was known under the names of Astarte, Ishtar, and EASTER. The very name "Easter" tells us what the holiday was originally about, as does the fertility symbols of eggs, bunnies, and chicks.

NOTE: In the King James Bible, it says the word "Easter" in Acts 12:4. This is not in error. This was not referring to Passover, since they were already in the Days of Unleavened Bread. It literally was the pagan holiday Easter/Ishtar/Astarte/Ashtoreth that was the one being celebrated in that

passage.

Saying all of the above doesn't necessarily tell us if it's okay or not, to celebrate Easter. Perhaps it's harmless, good fun, and God sees our hearts, and knows we love Him, so what does it matter? We'll turn to the Scriptures later in this article and find out if it's okay to celebrate Easter, or not.

Christmas: that's another tough one. First off, the name - Christ Mass. That is a Roman Catholic name, and I am not Roman Catholic. I do not partake of mass, and therefore have felt off in calling Christmas, Christ Mass.

Another thing disturbing about Christmas, is Krampus. Have you ever heard about him? He's not as big here in the U.S. Here's a picture:

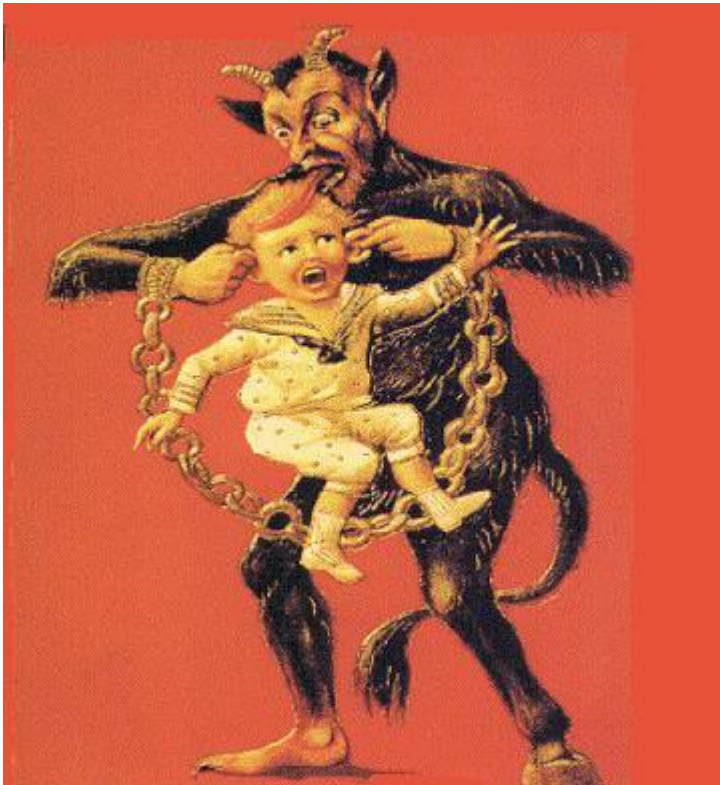


Krampus is a demon, and he's Santa Claus's buddy. Krampus is the one who likes to punish naughty children. He likes to punish any children, but Jolly Ole' Saint Nick only allows him to punish the naughty ones, and Santa blesses the good children.

NOTE OF INTEREST - Did you know that there is NO evidence that the man Saint Nick, or Chris Kringle ever really existed?

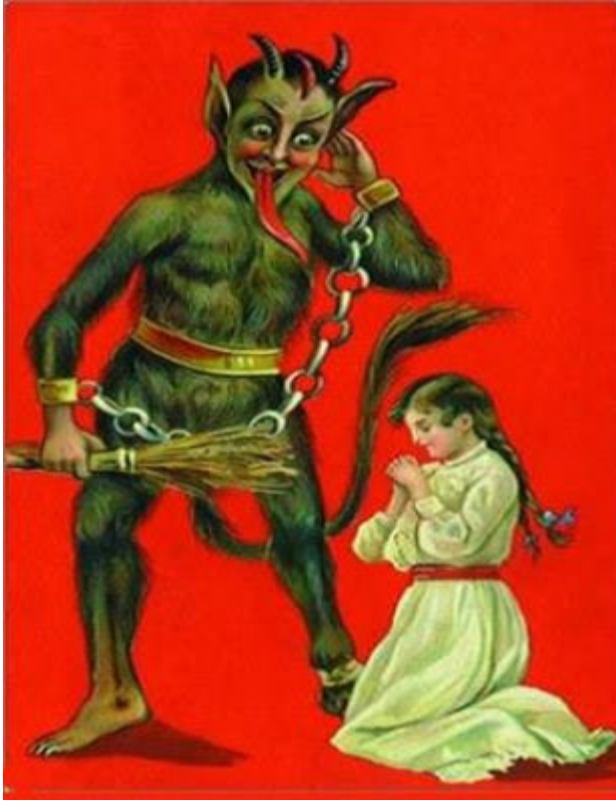
Back to the above picture. Notice who is looking in the window in the background. It is Santa Claus himself. He is looking on, approvingly, at the vileness of Krampus. (Note the popish hat on Santa.)

Krampus punishing a naughty child:



Before the Coca-Cola image of Santa, his image was very Pope-like. Have you noticed that? It makes sense when you think of it, since he was an invention of the Roman Catholic church, which was probably a makeover of some Pagan character for the Pagan festivals. It's not uncommon for children of various cultures through the centuries, to pray to Santa Claus. How's that for blasphemous?

Here is a picture of a child praying to Krampus:



Here is a child praying to both Krampus and Santa Claus:



Here is a child praying to the modern Coca-Cola santa:



To learn more about Krampus, please read the Krampus Blog - <http://krampus.xanga.com>.

Here is something of interest, in regards to Krampus and Saint Nick. Here in America, Santa Claus does the deed of both Saint Nick and Krampus. He does the deeds of Saint Nick, by giving gifts to the good children, and he does the job of Krampus, by punishing the bad children. The very title Santa Claus (that we use in the U.S.) is a mixture of Saint Nick and Krampus, put into one title, with the spellings changed. Santa means saint. Santa is the Saint Nick half. Claus sounds the same as Claws, and this is significant, because Krampus means CLAW. Saint Claw = Santa Claus = Saint Nick and Krampus all rolled up into one. Clearly, Santa Claus = Satan's Claws.



What about Christmas being the day of Christ's birth? After a lot of research, I am now ready to conclude that I don't think Christ was born in December. I tried to make it fit, but now I just have to admit that it doesn't. Christ was likely born in September. Someone else was supposedly born around December 25th, however. Can you guess whom? Semiramis's baby. Again, the Pagan Roman culture celebrated the holidays passed along from the Mystery Babylon religions. Many cultures celebrated these Babylonian religions. The main difference is that each culture had a different name for the same false deities. The Greeks and Egyptians (amongst some other cultures) would also take the same deity, but refer to him under many different names, later making it look like there were several more gods than there was. ALL of these take their roots back to Nimrod, who the Bible says was a "mighty one." Nimrod was the founder of Babylon, so a lot can be learned about his supposed deification and his wife Semiramis/Ashtoreth from ancient Babylonian tablets.

Let's step back, and take a look. These mother-child cults started with Nimrod, around the time he founded Babylon. The originator of this cult, I believe, is Satan. Satan knew what Genesis 3:15 says. That is the first biblical prophecy of Christ. It says that the Messiah will be born of a virgin (the seed of a woman). Satan, the Great Counterfeiter, set to work to create a mother-

child religion. Of course, the devil cannot make a virgin give birth, so Semiramis was not truly a virgin when she gave birth.

You see, she married Nimrod, and Nimrod was later killed. Semiramis comes up pregnant, whether from Nimrod before he died, or someone else, I don't know. She claims that she was still a virgin, and that the baby is a virgin birth, and a reincarnation of Nimrod. Satan's false mother-child cult was now put in place.

Priests for this new Mystery Babylon religion were ordained by Semiramis/Ashtoreth/Diana/Ishtar/Astarte/Easter. In order for Semiramis to know what was going on in her kingdom, she declared that the people must confess their sins to the priests, so that they could be 'cleaned from their sins.' The priests, sworn to secrecy, would then divulge the important and relevant confessions to Semiramis. The Mystery Babylon religion also had prayer beads that they used to aid their prayer life, while praying in front of idols of their mother and child. One of mysteries of the Mystery Babylon religion, is that they would bake special wafers or little cakes, and they believed that when they ate these wafers, they were literally eating their gods, and absorbing their gods into themselves.

Through the years, different cultures took on the Mystery Babylon religion, but just changed the names of the mother and child, to fit the language of their culture. This Mystery Babylon religion carried over into the next world power - the Medes and Persians, and after them, the Greeks, and then the strong and powerful pagan Roman Empire. Like the culture before them, the Roman people took on the mother-child deities from Mystery Babylon, and simply changed their names, to fit in with their culture.

The Roman empire was the world power when Jesus walked the earth. Christianity was born during this time.

NOTE: The only "church fathers" of Christianity are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. No man is a "church father," except for Christ.

After Christ's death and resurrection, the Christian church, obviously, started to grow. It especially started spreading through the world, after the occurrence

of Pentecost, in Acts chapter two, when "there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven," says Acts 2:5. The Gospel was given to a representative of every nation in the world at that time. These people eventually went home, and told others about it, and Christianity started showing up in different parts of the world.

Historically, the Christian church was called the Catholic Church for a time. This is not to be confused with the Roman Catholic Church, which did not exist yet at this point. Catholic meant "Universal." The Universal/Catholic Church started off with good intentions, and followed the teachings of Christ, and the Word of God. As the years went by, the Universal Church started passing decrees that were not Scriptural. The Catholic Church started to split, and splinter. Eventually, there was the Christian Church, made up of those who believed they should follow the Bible, and not man's religious decrees, and then there was the Roman Catholic Church, who believed one should follow the Church, the Pope, etc.

The Roman Catholic church (not to be confused with the Catholic/Universal Church) felt that they should embrace the Pagan Roman holidays and some of their religious practices, but change the names to Christian ones. Historically, we are told that the Roman Catholic Church did this, to bring more people into "the Church." This is largely why Roman Catholicism is different from Biblical Christianity. They have taken on the Mystery Babylon religion, and changed the names to Christian ones.

The question I asked when I wrote about Easter above, I ask here. Does this matter? If God looks in the heart, and sees the person loves Him, then does it matter that the person is practicing ancient Pagan customs, which have been renamed with Christian names? We will turn to the Scriptures later in this article to find that answer.

What about other Pagan labels? The names of the months, the days of the week, and a percentage of our terminology are derived, or directly named, after the various names for Nimrod/Baal and Semiramis/Ashtoreth. Is it blasphemous for us to call Monday "Monday," because it is named after the Moon god?

I don't think this is a problem. Having days, months, and other things named

after false deities, to me, is no worse than having a street named after a past president. These are names and labels given to things, so that we have something to call them. Monday/Moon Day is not a day set apart for celebrating the moon. There is no custom of the people to do anything special whenever it's Monday/Moon Day. This is the same with other days and months. For example, Saturday - Saturn Day - another name/form for Nimrod. Having that day called that, is just a label. However, if we *celebrated* Saturn Day every Saturday, then that would be a different scenario, altogether.

What about Easter and Christmas? Easter is a day named after a deity, just as the day Sunday (Sun Day) is. While it doesn't seem to be wrong to call Sunday, Sun Day, it is different with Easter. Easter isn't just a day of the week, with the word "Easter" as a label. It is the name of a holy day - a holiday. There are customs of the people involved here, usually including the Easter Bunny, marshmallow chicks, Easter egg hunts, and more. Is it okay for Christians to follow these customs of the people? Is it okay to call this Holy Day "Easter?"

What about Christmas? Is it okay to call it the Roman Catholic term "Christ Mass?" After all, it isn't just a label of any day of the week, it is the name of a holy day. Is it okay for Christians to have Christmas trees, and to deceive their children with the non-existent Santa Claus?

Isn't God looking at our hearts, regardless of our outward appearance? Perhaps on the outside, we look like we are partaking in ancient pagan festivals, with it's fertility eggs, and idol-like, decorated trees, but on the inside, we are thinking "golly, I sure do love God." Does this make it okay?

There are some pagan names/labels in our culture, which do not change or effect the way we live, day to day, such as the names of the days of the week. Then, there are the holy days/holidays. I believe there is a marked difference. While we don't need to care about the labels given to the days of the week, we should care, and look into these holy days, because they involve "customs of the people."

The below Scripture helped me, in regards to these holy days. It especially helped to make things more clear about Easter and Christmas:

"Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not." - Jeremiah 10:2-4

The Customs of the People are to celebrate Easter, via the Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunts, and more. The Customs of the People are to celebrate Christmas, by cutting a tree down from the forest, and decorating it, and setting it up so that it can't move - like a Christmas tree stand.

There were Christmas trees being decorated and erected by people long before there was such a word as Christmas. This was being done hundreds of years before Christianity. Obviously, they weren't called Christmas trees. They were called whatever name each culture gave them. Our culture now does the same thing, but our culture calls it the "Christmas tree."

It is clear that the people of God are not to partake in these holy days, or these "customs of the people." Therefore, the answer to the question of *doesn't it just matter what's in my heart, regardless if I celebrate Easter with bunnies, and Christmas with trees?* The answer is that it does matter, and that we are not to do it.

This jives perfectly with the following Scripture:

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." -1 Thessalonians 5:22

Even if we are loving God in our hearts, following the vain holiday customs of the people gives the appearance of evil, regardless if we are evil in our hearts, or not.

Some people have decided to not celebrate any of these holidays, and have returned to keeping the Old Covenant Feasts and Holy Days, such as Passover.

These Torah Observant Christians will recall us to Exodus 12:14, in regards to Passover, which says:

"And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever."

This Passover ordinance, like all of the Torah, has been fulfilled, via Christ. The Passover was a looking forward to the Messiah, coming to shed His blood, to save His people. This was fulfilled when Christ shed his blood on the cross, and He shouted "it is finished."

We are dead to the laws of the Torah. When a person dies, they are no longer under the covenant/law. Christians have died to the Old Law, and have been born again (see John 3) as new creatures in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 5:17). Christians are not commanded to keep Passover, or any Old Testament feast, Sabbath, or ceremonial law (moral laws still stand, as reiterated in the New Testament).

We are dead to the law:

"Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." - Romans 7:1-4

The above does not say it is a sin to keep the Old Testament feasts and days, though, does it? Then, perhaps a Christian can keep them, because they choose to, but not because they have to. I would be careful with that, because of the following:

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath

sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements (*the law*), whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain." -Galatians 4:4-11

Let us keep the admonition in Jeremiah 10 (a moral admonition) of not keeping the vain customs of the people - like decorating trees and such. Let us also keep in mind that we are no longer under the Torah, and therefore are no longer commanded to keep the Old Covenant feasts, which are fulfilled in Christ. Passover is an exception in one way - When we partake of Communion, we are celebrating Passover. Christ's body was broken for us. His blood was spilt for us, and when we partake of Communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we put this into remembrance, as commanded in the second half of 1 Corinthians 11.

With the above in mind, let us look at another Scripture, in regards to keeping religious holidays:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it." -Romans 14:5-6a

Keep in mind, we are not to follow the religious customs of the people of the day (Jeremiah 10 - this is moral, not a ceremonial O.T. law - moral "law" is still in effect under the New Covenant); we do not need to keep the Old Testament feasts, because they have been fulfilled in Christ (Galatians 4); and we are to abstain from appearances of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Concluding from this, it seems to me it is somewhat a personal decision. Will you, with a clear conscience, celebrate holy days on the day Easter is celebrated on, and the day Christmas is celebrated on? If so, will you continue to call Easter "Easter," which is named after a Pagan deity? Will you continue to call Christmas "Christ Mass," which is the Roman Catholic name for a day

that they took from the Roman Pagans, and gave it a CHRISTian name?

Will you celebrate via the "vain customs of the people," even though Jeremiah 10 says not to?

It's clear to me that we can celebrate Resurrection Sunday if we want to, as per Romans 14, but *when* should we celebrate it? Perhaps the first Sunday after Passover each year is a good time.

Christmas - I like the idea of celebrating Christ's birth, but He wasn't born on December 25, Semiramis's false deity child was. Further, I don't want to celebrate any Mass, as I am not Roman Catholic. Perhaps we should celebrate Christ's Birthday, and do it sometime in September, the month when He was likely really born? We have the freedom to do so, under Romans 14. Doing these two things, we would not be following the "vain customs of the people," but would be instead regarding these days as holy unto the Lord, while abstaining from the appearance of evil. Alternately, what about celebrating "Holy Day" on December 25th, celebrating the conception of Christ, since that is around the time He was likely conceived?

It can take a lot of courage to step out, and be different from the world - from the customs of the people. For example, many Christian women have chosen to cover their heads, in obeying the New Testament injunction to do so in 1 Corinthians 11:1-10.

Christians should not blend into the world. We are called to be sanctified and set apart. Let us make sure that the inside of the cup is as clean as the outside. We can look the part of pure holiness, but be hateful on the inside. Let's make sure we don't do this. Let us take some wisdom from a lesson Jesus gave to the scribes and Pharisees:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also." -Matthew 23:25-26

In conclusion, I ask you to pray about this. I know I am. I am seeking the Lord's will in this. I wish to honor and please Him, as I'm sure, my sisters in

Christ, you do too. Below I am going to provide some extensive reference materials for you to further your own personal research.

Prophesying, Tongues, and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away" - 1 Corinthians 13:8

One day, I heard someone say that the above Scripture teaches that the canon of the Scripture is closed, therefore people no longer speak in tongues, prophesy, or have any of those other gifts. That was very strange sounding to me. I believe that doctrinal position is wrong, for two reasons - 1) I can show in scripture that prophecy, tongues, etc. are still for today, and 2) I've personally witnessed and experienced the moving of the Spirit, and the miracles that occurred.

The Bible and experience tells me that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are still for today. If they weren't for today, then when were they for? The Comforter/Holy Spirit was not yet given in the Old Testament (John 16:7).

There was prophecy in the Old Testament, but I don't recall any instances of tongues. Thus, if tongues passed away, then they would have had to occurred at some point. They didn't occur in the Old Testament, and according to the some people's teachings, they didn't occur after the New Testament of the Bible was complete, so when did they occur, before they "passed away?"

From this logic alone, one can see that interpreting 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 as saying that prophecy and tongues has passed away must not be the correct interpretation.

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away - 1 Corinthians 13:8

Some people say - see, tongues and prophecies shall cease. ... did you read the rest of the verse? It says that knowledge will vanish away as well. Has knowledge passed away? This alone is sufficient enough to show that some people have misinterpreted 1 Corinthians 13:8-12. The canon of the Scriptures gives us knowledge. Through the Bible, we can learn about the Most High. The point of this verse isn't the passing away of gifts, but that gifts are nothing in

comparison to Christian love (charity - love in action). Christian and Godly love will still exist after 'that which is perfect is come,' even though at that point we will no longer need any of the gifts of the Spirit, because we will finally see Jesus face to face and know Him as well as He knows us.

1 Cor. 13:8-12 is clearly talking about Jesus' second coming, and is telling us that until Jesus comes back, we will know Jesus in part through these gifts of the Spirit. After Jesus comes back, there will be no further need of these gifts:

"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." -1 Cor. 13:10

That which is perfect has not come yet, and I still don't "know [Jesus] even as also I am known [by Him]" yet. That doesn't happen until that which is perfect is come - Jesus Christ hasn't come back yet.

Some people think that "that which is perfect" referred to in 1 Cor. 13:10 is not Jesus, but is the Bible. They conclude that the Bible has come, therefore prophecies and tongues have now ceased. If that is the case, then we no longer have knowledge either, do we? (Remember verse 8.)

What is the topic of 1 Corinthians 13? A quick glance through the chapter makes it obvious that the chapter is about love, and it goes on to compare love to spiritual gifts, and concludes that love is the most important thing. See verses 1,2, and 13. The topic of the canon of scripture is not even touched upon at all in this chapter.

Some people have been taught that we can no longer have the gift of prophecy, because "we are not to add to the Word of God." Certainly we are not to add to the Word of God. Prophesying is not adding to the Bible, but **confirming it**.

All true prophecy will always line up with the Bible. It may be more personal in nature, being specific to the person, or group of persons to which said prophecy is addressed. Another way of saying this, would be that we are not to change the Holy Scriptures by adding or taking from them. This does not happen when a person is being prophesied over, unless the prophecy fails the test of the spirits, as laid out in the Bible. The Bible tells us to "try the spirits,"

meaning that if someone prophesies something, and it is at odds with the doctrines of the Bible, then that person is a false prophet. See 1 John 4:1; Jeremiah 29:8; Deut. 13:1-5; and 2 Cor. 11:14. There aren't any scriptures that say that we no longer have the gifts of the Spirit. There are *two whole chapters* in the Bible that says that we DO have gifts of the Spirit, and these chapters tell us how to exercise these gifts.

1 Corinthians 12 tells us that each Christian is a different part of the Body of Christ, with different gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some people have the gift of tongues, but not all. Some people have the gift of prophecy, but not all. Some have the gift of teaching, discernment, etc.

Not all Christians have the gift of tongues. See 1 Cor. 12:10 and 12:28-31.

1 Corinthians chapter 14 gets into the specifics of speaking in tongues and prophesying, and how to do it while keeping order in the church. Chapter 14 concludes that one should only speak out loud in tongues if there is someone there to interpret. And if there is more than one person with a prophecy to say aloud, then they are to take turns, and not all speak out at once.

If the gifts of the Spirit are not for today, then why are there two whole chapters in the Bible that tells us about them, and their uses? There are many Christians - including myself, who have experienced some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I don't currently appear to have the gift of tongues. I have experienced and witnessed other gifts of the Spirit, however.

For one to say that God only speaks to us through the Bible, cuts off a whole line of communication. There has been numerous times when God has spoken personally to me - a few times it was quite LOUD, but usually it was and is a still, small voice. The Bible is the standard by which we verify whether or not what we hear is of God.

What are Tongues?

The word for 'tongues,' and 'languages' are interchangeable in the Bible, because they mean the same thing. Every place where the Bible speaks of the gift of speaking in tongues, you could replace the word 'tongues' with the word 'languages,' and you would still get the correct meaning and

interpretation. Speaking in tongues is not speaking repetitive gibberish, it is simply one's speaking a different language, which they never learned. That different language is not necessarily limited to current spoken languages - dead languages have been resurrected and spoken by tongues, as well as languages that have not been identified. Thus, speaking in tongues/languages can extend beyond current spoken languages.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

There are differing views of what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is. Some believe that it's the Holy Spirit coming to indwell the person when they accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, while others believe that it is a separate occurrence from salvation, in which an anointed person of God lays their hands on you, then the Spirit comes upon you, and you start speaking in tongues. Let us turn the Word of God, and not to any church teaching, to find out what Baptism of the Holy Spirit is:

John the Baptist said:

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:" -Matthew 3:11

"John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:" -Luke 3:16

When you are first born, you are born of the water. This is referring to your physical birth. When you are born again, you are born of the Spirit. Jesus said:

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." -John 3:5

Jesus taught that after He leaves this earth, the Holy Spirit, AKA the Comforter, will come:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I

go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." - John 16:7

On the first Pentecost after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Comforter/Holy Spirit came:

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." -Acts 2:1-4

How do WE receive this baptism of the Holy Spirit? Peter tells us:

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." -Acts 2:38

Will we all speak in tongues when we receive the Holy Spirit? Certainly not, for not every single person who has repented, accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour, and has gotten baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, has spoken in tongues. Tongues are a gift of the Holy Spirit, and only those who have been given that gift will speak in tongues. Read 1 Corinthians chapter 12 for more about this.

Paul met up with some people who were followers of John the Baptist, and believed on the Messiah, but they had not yet heard the full Gospel of Christ:

"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had

laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve." - Acts 19:1-7

These people knew about the preaching of John the Baptist (they were some of John's disciples), but had not yet heard the full Gospel of Christ. Once they were informed of the full Gospel of Christ, they believed, and the Holy Spirit came to indwell them - they become born again, which the Bible also calls born of the Spirit. Sometimes hands were laid on a person when they got saved and received the Holy Spirit. Other times there were no laying on of the hands. I believe this varies, as the person delivering the Gospel follows the leading of the Lord per situation.

When one gets saved, then they are born again - born of the Spirit (John 3:5). Here is the basic gist of it:

"For by one **Spirit** are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." - 1 Corinthians 12:13

By one Spirit, we Christians are all part of the Body of Christ.

There are no works we must do to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, except to just put our full faith in Christ:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" - Titus 3:5

When a person becomes a saved, born again Christian, they are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" - Ephesians 1:13

A Sampling of Scriptures that Prove the Gifts of the Spirit are Still for Today

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call." -Joel 2:28-32

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.....Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call." -Acts 2:17-21,38-39

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." -Matthew 17:20

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;" -Mark 16:17

"And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you." -Luke 17:6

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:" -1 Corinthians 12:7-10

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." -1 Corinthians 12:13

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:28

"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy." -1 Corinthians 14:1

"I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." -1 Corinthians 14:5

"Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." 1 Corinthians 14:13-15

"If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted." 1 Corinthians 14:27-31

The Rapture

Can we know when the "end" will be?

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Matthew 24:36

Does this mean Christians will be utterly clueless? Not at all. Jesus said that there would be signs, which will give us an idea of the season (times) when the "end" will happen (we just won't know the specific day or hour):

"So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors." Matthew 24:33

Jesus tells us to watch for the signs of the end:

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." - Matthew 24:42

Will there be a rapture?

The word "rapture" does not appear in the Bible, but it is a term that most Christians are familiar with. Just as the word "trinity" isn't in the Bible, but its truth is plainly taught; such is with the rapture.

I believe there will be a rapture. The question is - When? Various scriptures tell us of the rapture.

As you read through this article, you will be confronted with scripture upon scripture, which should show you, without a shadow of a doubt, that there will indeed be a rapture. Get out your pen and King James Bible, and get ready to hunker down in the Word of God...

Will there be a pre-tribulation rapture?

Three of the most popular scriptures pre-trib rapturists like to use to try to prove pre-trib rapture are the following:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" - 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."
Revelation 4:1

The first two scriptures will be used later to prove that there is indeed going to be a rapture, but that it will not be pre-trib. As for the third scripture, I've always found that a ludicrous scripture for one to use to "prove" pre-trib rapture. I think that those who use Revelation 4:1 are grasping at straws. Revelation 4:1 is speaking specifically to John, to "come up hither," and see the visions. I do not believe it was spoken to the church.

Pre-trib rapturists like say that the word "church" is not mentioned in Revelation after the first three chapters. It isn't, because after chapter three, the topic of the book changes from addressing the seven churches of Asia, to addressing the topic of the end times. The word "church" may not be used, but synonymous terms are, such as "saint," and "elect."

I have yet to find any scriptures that tell me there will be a pre-trib rapture.

Will the rapture happen after the tribulation?

If the rapture were to happen after the tribulation, then what would be the point of having a rapture, since that is when Jesus comes back to the earth? Am I supposed to think that we Christians will be raptured up to heaven, and

then immediately come back down onto the earth? I don't know how post-trib rapturists can say that there is going to be a rapture at all. I have yet to find any scriptures that tell me there will be a post-trib rapture.

When will the rapture be?

My studies have led me to believe that the rapture will probably happen somewhere in the middle of the tribulation. I believe in mid-trib rapture. As you will see in a few minutes, there are abundant scriptures in the Bible that seem to tell us of a mid-trib rapture. I'm speaking of scriptures that give detail, so that it would be hard to interpret the rapture happening at any other time, besides sometime during the middle of the tribulation. (Remember the Scripture I pointed out earlier in this article - we won't know the exact time of the rapture, but we can know the season.)

I will not go through all of the scriptures that prove mid-trib rapture, else this article will truly turn into a book. For those of you who like to dig deeper, may I suggest that you write down all of the scriptures I'm about to give to you, then you can use a good KJV reference Bible to look up other Biblical references to the following scriptures, and find more mid-trib rapture support for yourself...

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." Jeremiah 30:7

I believe "Jacob's Trouble" is the last half of the tribulation. If you do a careful study of the book of Revelation, you'll notice that the first half of the tribulation isn't nearly as bad as the second half. The first half contains the seven seals and the seven trumpets, which aren't much to wink an eye at, when you read of the second half of the tribulation, where antichrist proclaims himself as "god," and the 7 Vials of God's wrath are poured out. That is going to be the big trouble – Jacob's Trouble. Jacob's Trouble is also referred to as the "Great Tribulation" in the Bible, as opposed to just the tribulation. See Matthew 24:21.

The Bible tells us that those who have the seal of God in their foreheads will be saved from a lot of the troubles in the first half of the tribulation. Revelation only mentions the 144,000 Israelites getting sealed, but Christians

are already sealed right now, as you can learn from studying such scriptures as Ephesians 1:13.

Before or at "Jacob's Trouble," or the "Great Tribulation," (the second half of the tribulation) all true Christians will be raptured.

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of **abominations** he shall make it **desolate**, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."
Daniel 9:27

The Bible teaches the principle that one should let scripture interpret scripture. By looking up other scriptures that discuss the topic of Daniel 9:27, it is concluded that the "week" is a week of years – 7 years. You can also gather this simply by reading the surrounding context of the above scripture. Daniel 9 talks of the 70 weeks of years. The tribulation is in the 70th week - the last 7 years.

Daniel 9:27 is discussing the 7-year treaty/deal that will be made between the Middle East and many nations.

Daniel 9:27 tells us that in the middle of the 7-year tribulation/treaty, antichrist will cause the sacrifices and oblations to stop. Other scriptures also tell us that when he does this, he will sit in the temple, "shewing himself that he is god." This is also around the time of Revelation chapter 13, when the mark of the beast will become mandatory. NOTE: "Shewing *himself* that he is god?" Interesting wordage. Think on that one for a while.

We now have a marker that tells us what is going to happen mid-trib, so we know that if there is mid-trib rapture, that it will happen, around the time of the mid-trib crises of the "abomination of desolation" as spoken by Daniel in such places as Daniel 9:27.

"And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as

never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 11:45-12:1

The "he" that will plant the tabernacle of his palace in the glorious holy mountain is the antichrist. This is mentioning the same thing as Daniel 9:27, which is called the "abomination of desolation," elsewhere in scripture. The "trouble" (AKA Jacob's Trouble) is mentioned as happening after the palace is planted in the glorious mountain. We see that the time being discussed in the above passage is again the middle of the tribulation/treaty.

The above says "Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." "The book" is defined in the book of Revelation as "the Lamb's book of life." Only saved, born again Christians have their names in that book.

One of the first possible mentions of the rapture in the New Testament is the below:

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:36

Perhaps Christians will escape during the first half of the tribulation, because they have God's seal (see Eph. 1), just as the 144,000 will get sealed. Christians will escape Jacob's Trouble, because the rapture will happen somewhere in the middle of tribulation, before the seven vials of wrath are poured forth. Under the mid-trib view, the Christians will be raptured before God's full wrath is released, via the Seven Vials of Wrath. Because of this stance, some people refer to the mid-trib stance as "mid-trib pre-wrath."

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound**, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Later we will go to the "last trump" in the Bible – the seventh trumpet in the book of Revelation. In the description of the seventh trumpet, we will read of

the dead being raised first, and then the saints. Remember, the Bible identifies "saints" as saved, born again Christians, not some person who was ordained so by any earthly church.

The above passage cannot be referring to the rapture happening pre-trib, because it says it will happen in the last trumpet. Further, the seventh trumpet in Revelation is in *the middle of the 7-year tribulation*.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with **the trump of God**: and *the dead in Christ shall rise first*: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." -1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The above is another scripture describing the rapture. When will the rapture happen? The above tells us, when it says "with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God." This happens in the seventh trumpet in Revelation, during the middle of the tribulation, as you will see in a moment. But first:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" -2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

When will "our gathering together unto him" be? Ah, yes "for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" - Answer? Not until the abomination of desolation. Remember when that happens? That's right, in the middle of the 7-year tribulation.

Now let us read of the mid-trib rapture in the seventh trumpet in the book of Revelation:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever...
 ...And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."
 Revelation 11:15 and 18

Notice the above tells us that the dead will be raised first, and then the living saints are raptured next. It shows this happening at the seventh trumpet, which is the last trumpet in the Bible, and must therefore be the "last trump" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

If you keep reading through the book of Revelation, you'll see that chapter 12 is a parenthetical chapter, and then the timeline picks up again with chapter 13, where the mark of the beast is mentioned. This is also where it tells us that anti-christ proclaims himself to be "god" - the Abomination of Desolation. This is where the second half of the tribulation begins.

PS - For further study of interest - it is in the sixth trumpet where the two witnesses are killed and then translated to heaven. (Read the first half of chapter 11). Christians are raptured at the next trumpet - the 7th. If the rapture isn't occurring in the seventh trumpet, then that trumpet is fairly empty. Read it for yourself and see. There is not much occurring in the seventh trumpet, if you don't read the rapture there.

When is the Rapture? - A Recap

I could have this all wrong, but I don't think so...

The seventh trumpet is the middle of the tribulation, as studying the surrounding chapters before and after Revelation 11 reveals. The rapture has two steps: 1) The dead in Christ are raised and raptured first, and 2) The Christians still living are then raptured:

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God {Seventh Trumpet}: and the dead in Christ shall rise first {Step One}: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air {Step Two}: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." -1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

The seventh trumpet is the last trumpet mentioned in the Bible. Rapture happens at the Last Trump:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and** the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

One More Thing

There are many more scriptures which I just didn't mention, because it would have made this article too long. However, I ran across a scripture that *needs* to be in this article.

Before I give you that Scripture, let's review my key rapture verse:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." -1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Now here's the Scripture I want to show you:

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the **mystery** of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." -Revelation 10:7

WOW! Did you see that?!!! Amazing!

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 says that the rapture is

- 1) A mystery of God
- 2) That it will happen at the last trumpet
- 3) That the dead Christians shall be raised and raptured first, and then the living Christians

Between 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Revelation 10:7, and the description of the seventh trumpet in Revelation chapter 11, we can see the parallel with the word "mystery." This particular 'mystery' of God certainly must be the rapture.

Keeping the "mystery" mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 in mind, we see it referenced again in Revelation 10:7, where it agrees with the Corinthians passage, that this mystery will happen at the seventh trumpet (the last trump).

Let's see if the seventh trumpet matches the above two Scriptures:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." -Revelation 11:15-19

Let's view this in a chart:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52	Revelation 10:7	Revelation 11:15-19
"Behold, I shew	"the mystery of	Mystery revealed in the rapture

you a mystery"	God should be finished"	
"At the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound"	"in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound"	"And the seventh angel sounded"
"the dead shall be raised incorruptible"	~~~~~	"the time of the dead, that they should be judged"
"and we shall all be changed"	~~~~~	"thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great"
"Behold, I shew you..."	"as he hath declared to his servants the prophets"	~~~~~
~~~~~	~~~~~	"and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth" - the second half of the tribulation, when God pours out His vials of wrath - the worst part of the tribulation. Christians will be raptured before the 7 vials of wrath. The people not raptured are "those which destroy the earth." This isn't referring to 'mother earth' or global warming, but to those which destroyed, or wreaked havoc with the ways of earth and her inhabitants, by leading people astray, against God's will - the unrighteous and wicked at heart are those who "destroy the earth." SIN destroys, and is what brought the curse on the earth in the first place.

## Vatican vs. God



OR



For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus - 1 Timothy 2:5

*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. - Acts 17:11*

**Vatican says** "Hence Irenaeus, who lived shortly after the Apostolic age, and who is a faithful interpreter of Apostolic doctrine, always taught that a knowledge of the truth could only be had from the living voice of the Church." Caritatis Studium

**The Word of God says** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. - 2 Peter 1:20

**Vatican says** - "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day." Reference - Catechism of the Catholic Church #841

**The Word of God says** - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:

*no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. -John 14:6*

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. - John 3:16-18*

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. -Acts 4:12*

**Vatican says** - that the Catholic Church ("The Church") has the right to pass down traditions, and that these traditions hold as much water as the very Bible itself.

**The Word of God Says** - *Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. -Mark 7:13*

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. -Colossians 2:8*

**Vatican says** - that the Catholic Church canonizes saints: "On November 12, 1950 Pope Pius XII beatified Marguerite Bourgeoys. Canonizing her this October 31, 1982, Pope John Paul II gives the Canadian Church its first woman saint."

"On November 5, 1947 Pope Pius XII beatified Jeanne Delanoue. This October 31, 1982 Pope John Paul II singles out for the people of God yet another saint, Saint Jeanne Delanoue."

"A new miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Francis Anthony was approved with the decree of March 21, 1985, by the Holy Father, John Paul II."

The Roman Catholic Church has a 6-step process that a person must qualify under, for them to be canonized as a saint. You can read their canonization process here - <http://www.catholic-pages.com/saints/process.asp>

**The Word of God says** - *Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and*

if the world shall be judged **by you**, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? - 1 Corinthians 6:2

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: -1 Corinthians 1:2

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. -Revelation 14:12

**Vatican says** - The Vatican repeatedly calls their pope "Holy Father."

**The Word of God says** - And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Matthew 23:9

**Vatican says** - "The members of the Rosary Sodality, therefore, do exceedingly well in weaving together, as in a crown, so many salutations and prayers to Mary."

**The Word of God says** - After this **manner** therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. -Matthew 6:9

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. -Matthew 6:6

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a **necromancer** [necromancy - the black art of speaking to the dead - such as speaking to Mary and "the saints," which are all dead people.] For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Deuteronomy 8:10-12

**Vatican says** - "Mary places herself between her Son and mankind in the reality of their wants, needs and sufferings. She puts herself "in the middle," that is to say she acts as a mediatrix [mediator] not as an outsider, but in her position as mother."

**The Word of God says** - For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; -1 Timothy 2:5

**Vatican says** - "After a short pause for reflection, recite the "Our Father", ten "Hail Mary's" and the "Glory be to the Father".

**The Word of God says** - *But when ye pray, use not vain **repetitions**, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.* -Matthew 6:7

**Let us now compare God's 10 Commandments to the ones used by the Roman Catholic church:**

Note: The Roman Catholic Ten Commandments are also used in some Lutheran and related churches. These are NOT the Ten Commandments of the Bible, as shown below.

God's 10 Commandments	Roman Catholic Church's 10 Commandments
1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.	1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image ... thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them	2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain	3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.	4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. Honour thy father and thy mother:	5. You shall not kill.
6. Thou shalt not kill.	6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.	7. You shall not steal.

8. Thou shalt not steal.	8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.	9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.	10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Notice in the first commandment, that God commands that we are not to have any other gods, but Him. The Roman Catholic first commandment doesn't say that; it says just not to have any "strange Gods." They can now justify praying to the dead Mary and saints (necromancy is condemned in the Bible), even though the Bible teaches that we are ONLY to pray to God. Mary is elevated to a God status, as only God can hear all prayers all of the time and know everything. Mary is not omnipresent, omnipotent, or omniscient. Mary cannot hear or answer the prayers of faithful Roman Catholics. The Bible is clear that we are not to pray to the dead, but only to the one living God.

Furthermore, "strange Gods" doesn't say that Catholics can't worship more than one God. Between praying to Mary, and bowing to her statue, they are worshiping Mary, of which they don't consider a "strange" God, yet they worship her as a God, whether that is outright admitted to or not. Actions speak louder than words:





God's second commandment says that we are not to bow down to idols. Roman Catholics have idols of Mary and "patron saints" that they bow down to. Below is a picture of some idols being "blessed:"



The Roman Catholic Ten Commandments, as taught on their official "Holy See" website at <http://www.vatican.va/> is missing the second commandment, which forbids bowing to statues, pictures, etc. Instead, they take the third commandment in the place of the second, the fourth in place of the third, etc. This would leave them with only 9 commandments, so to make ten, they simply take the 10th commandment from the Bible, and divide it into two separate commandments. The Roman Catholic church (as well as some Lutheran churches and some others) actually has 9 commandments, but they break up one of the commandments into two, so that it looks like 10 commandments.

**This is forbidden in GOD'S second Commandment:**



Who is the Saviour? As you may already know, the first prophecy of Christ in the Bible is Genesis 3:15, where we are told that He will be born from a virgin, the seed of a woman. Now take a look below:

**Vatican says** - *"I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: **she** shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for **her** heel."* - The Roman Catholic version of Genesis 3:15 Reference - The Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims Bible

**The Word of God says** - *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it** [the seed - Jesus] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise **his** heel.*

**Vatican says** when one partakes of Communion (they call it the Eucharist, as some other churches do) that person must believe that they are literally eating Jesus' very body, and drinking His very blood. *"by doing so they signified that all who eat the one broken bread, Christ, enter into communion with him and form but one body in him.[146]"* Catchesim of the Roman Catholic Church

**The Word of God says** *And when he [Jesus] had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. - 1 Corinthians 11:24-26.*

Jesus could not have been instituting the literal eating of His flesh, and the literal drinking of His blood, else He would have been eating and drinking Himself as well, and let us not forget that He was sitting right there.

*"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." -John 6:35*

If the Communion is the literal eating of Christ's flesh, and the literal drinking of His blood, then it must also be true that when one comes to Jesus, one will no longer have need of any food or drink. Obviously, the above is spiritual, not literal. The same is true with The Lord's Supper. Jesus explains that to us, after telling a crowd of people that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood. He said:

*"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." -John 6:63*

**Vatican says** *"At the Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood. This he did in order to **perpetuate** the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until he should come again ..."[133]"*  
Catchesim of the Roman Catholic Church

**The Word of God says** *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished; and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. -John 19:30*

*Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he [Jesus] did **once**, when he offered up himself. -Hebrews 7:27*

*For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now **once** in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was **once** offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. -Hebrews 9:24-28*

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ***once for all***. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man [Jesus], after he had offered ***one sacrifice for sins for ever***, sat down on the right hand of God; - Hebrews 10:10-12

**Vatican says** "I do not believe that they are passing personal judgment on these priests, but what they are saying, it seems to me, is that they want celibate priests who can dedicate their whole lives to the Lord and to his people. No other commitment will do." Celibacy: Fidelity to one's priestly identity and

"1. The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat." - Paul VI on Abstinence

**The Word of God says** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. -1 Timothy 4:1-3

**The Most Important Doctrine of all is This:**

**The Word of God says** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. -John 8:32

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. -John 14:6

**Roman Catholics: a call to action...**

The Vatican and the Bible say different things. The Vatican and Roman Catholic church are made of up people. Will you follow them, or will you follow the Lord and His Bible? You cannot follow both the teachings of the Bible and that of the Vatican, as they teach so many things adverse to one another. Trying to follow both is akin to being against abortion, and at the same time, paying for the abortions of people who can't afford one, as a charity.



*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served ..... in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. -Joshua 24:15*

## The World System That's Here, and the One to Come

I'm sure we are all familiar with the saying that "all roads lead to Rome..."

Who's running the world? The illuminati? The Bilderberg group? The Rockefellers? The Rothschilds?

No. They are all puppets. They are parts of the beast of Revelation - parts of the coming together one world order. As we learn in Revelation 17, it's the whore that rides the beast, who is the puppet master. - She is a religious organization, running things from behind the scenes, but making it look like the puppets are the ones in charge. By doing this, the puppet master can rule completely, with no consequences. If a puppet is taken down, there are hundreds trained and lined up to take its place.

*And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. -*

Revelation 17:7-18

I really want to know what the above means, don't you? Let's put aside preconceived notions, and really take a look at this. Look at what I'm about to show you, and then come to your own conclusions.

### **According to Halley's Bible Handbook**

The description of Babylon the Great Harlot, Seated on the Seven-Headed Ten-Horned Beast, while it may have ultimate reference to a situation yet to appear, Exactly fits Papal Rome. Nothing else in the World History does fit.

The desire for Worldly Power began to manifest itself in the Church, on a broad scale, in the 4th century, when the Roman Empire ceased its Persecutions, and made Christianity its State Religion. The spirit of Imperial Rome passed into the Church. The Church gradually developed itself into the pattern of the Empire it had conquered.

Rome fell. But Rome came to life again, as a World-Power of Rome with the heirs and successors of the Caesars of Rome. The Vatican is where the Palace of the Caesars was. The Popes have claimed all the authority the Caesars claimed, and more. The Papal Palace, throughout the centuries, has been among the most luxurious in all the world. Popes have lived in Pomp and Splendor unsurpassed by earthly kings. In no place on earth is there more ostentatious pageantry and show of magnificence than at the coronation of a Pope. The City of Rome, first Pagan, then Papal, has been the Dominating Power of the World for Two Thousand Years, 200 B.C. to A.D. 1800.

"Full of names of Blasphemy" (17:3). Popes claim to hold on earth the place of God, to have Supreme Authority over the human Conscience, to Forgive Sin, to Grant Indulgences, and that Obedience to Them is necessary to Salvation. How could anything be more Blasphemous?

"Scarlet" (17:3,4), color of the Beast and the Harlot, and also of the Dragon (12:3), is the Color of the Papacy. The Papal Throne is Scarlet. It is borne by twelve men clad in Scarlet. The Cardinals' hats and robes are Scarlet. Originally the Devil's color (12:3), it has now become the Color of Atheistic Communism: they are commonly spoken of as Reds, Red Army, Red Territory, the Red Square in Moscow, the Devil again marshalling his hosts from Without.



"Filthiness of her Fornication" (17:4). Appalling Immoralities of Popes of the Middle Ages are well known.

"Drunk with the Blood of Martyrs" (17:6). The Horrors of the Inquisition, ordered and maintained by the Popes, over a period of 500 years, in which unnumbered millions were Tortured and Burned, constitute the MOST BRUTAL, BEASTLY and DEVILISH PICTURE in all history.

It is not pleasant to write these things. It is inconceivable that any Ecclesiastical Organization, in its mania for Power, could have distorted and desecrated and corrupted, for its own exaltation, the beautiful and holy religion of Jesus, as the Papacy has done.

But Facts are Facts. And History is History. and, most amazing of all, it seems exactly pre-figured in Revelation. No wonder John's vision made him sick at heart (10:10).

The above was quoted from Halley's Bible Handbook, Classic Edition.

NOTE: When purchasing a Halley's Bible Handbook, make sure to get a true classic edition, or an older edition. According to this conversation on the Sermon Index forums:

*"The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association published a special "Crusade Edition" (1962, 1964, 1969) of Halley's Bible Handbook and boldly removed Halley's careful documentation of the evil of the popes and the slaughter of true Christians. Zondervan published a revised edition of Halley's Bible Handbook in 2000, which likewise eliminated references to the RCC's heresies and the millions of evangelical Christians slaughtered by Rome. Instead, it says: 'The Roman Catholic Church responded to the Protestant Reformation by reforming and renewing itself.'"*

### **According to the Nelson King James Study Bible**

The elegant clothing and jewelry of the woman show her wealth and attractiveness, but her activities are filthy and abominable to God. Her mystery name is BABYLON THE GREAT. Ancient Babylon is a type or

prefigurement of this future Babylon. The harlot will do what literal Babylon did in the past: (1) oppress God's people, and (2) propagate a false religious system. Much of the world's idolatry can be traced back to historical Babylon (cf. Gen. 11:1-9), including the mother-child cult of Semiramis-Tammus (cf. Jer. 44:16-19; Ezk. 8:9,14), which entered other cultures as Ashtaroth-Baal, Aphrodite-Eros, Venus-Cupid, and even Madonna-Child. As the fountainhead of idolatry, Babylon the harlot is the MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. The harlot has killed many of God's saints and Christian martyrs throughout the ages, and will do so again during the Tribulation period. ... In verse 18, she is identified as the great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth, referring probably to a worldwide, idolatrous, pagan system centered at Rome.

The above was quoted from The Nelson King James Study Bible

#### **According to the Old Scofield Bible**

Babylon, "confusion," is repeatedly used by the prophets in a symbolic sense (see Isa. 13:1 note). Two "Babylons" are to be distinguished in the Revelation: ecclesiastical Babylon, which is apostate Christendom, headed up under the Papacy; and political Babylon, which is the Beast's confederated empire, the last form of Gentile world-dominion. Ecclesiastical Babylon is "the great whore" (Rev. 17:1), and is destroyed by political Babylon (Rev. 17:15-18), that the beast may be the alone object of worship (2 Thes. 2:3,4; Rev. 13:15). The power of political Babylon is destroyed by the return of the Lord in glory. (See "Armageddon," Rev. 16:14; 19:17). The notion of a literal Babylon to be rebuilt on the site of ancient Babylon is in conflict with Isa. 13:19-22. But the language of Rev. 18 (e.g. vs. 10, 16, 18) seems beyond question to identify "Babylon," the "city" of luxury and traffic, with "Babylon" the ecclesiastical centre, viz. Rome. The very kings who hate ecclesiastical Babylon deplore the destruction of commercial Babylon.

The above was quoted from The Scofield Bible with the 1917 Notes.

#### **According to "Rothschild's: Papal & Royal Knights"**

The Bank of Rome began opening branch offices in Venice in 1587.  
Bank of Rome = Vatican Bank controlled by the Jesuit General, aka the  
“Black” (hidden, shadowy) Pope.

The Jesuit’s Bank of Rome opened its Bank of England branch in 1694. The first bank to be named after a country, the Bank of England had nothing to do with the British government – except to own it through privately held, interest-compounded debt.

Unaccountable to either the Queen or Parliament, the misleadingly labeled “Bank of England” finances the throne, the British prime minister, parliament and much of the planet out of “The City” located in central London. All major British banks have their main offices in this “Square Mile” – as well as 70 U.S. banks. Throw in the London Stock Exchange, Lloyd’s of London, the Baltic Exchange (shipping), Fleet Street (publishing and newspapers), the London Commodity and Metal exchanges – and you are looking at Earth’s financial axis. [Descent into Slavery]

The City operates as a sovereign state, just like the Vatican. Since 1820, the Rothschild’s have traditionally chosen The City’s Lord Mayor.

Back in the USA, as author Eric Phelps explained in an interview just before publication of his secrecy-shredding Vatican Assassins, (which was held up to include corrections by sympathetic Jesuits) – the Vatican’s Black Robes “own and control” the Federal Reserve Bank “by proxy, through the Knights of Malta, with their various trusts and so on. They never own anything outright; they always own it through a trusted third party.”

...

**“All roads do lead to Rome ... We have the Federal Reserve begat by the Bank of England begat by the Bank of Rome.** Similarly, the Bank of Canada is an offspring of the Bank of England, which in turn is a child of the Bank of Rome – aka, the Vatican Bank.

And the Vatican, as everyone “knows” is run by the CNN-featured “White” Pope. Left untranslated is the coronation moment when the new Pontiff is told in Latin: “Take thou the tiara adorned with the triple crown, and know that thou art the father of princes and kings, and art the governor of the world.” [Vatican Assassins]

...

According to Baron Avro Manhattan, author of a jaw-dropping series of Vatican books, "Many historians and researchers and one American Congressman stated that: **'The Vatican through the Jesuit Order controlling the Illuminati is in control of the United States Federal Reserve.'**" [Vatican Billions by Avro Manhattan]

In the book of Daniel, we read of King Nebuchadnezzar having a disturbing, prophetic dream. The Lord reveals to Daniel what that dream means. Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue, and different segments of that statue were made of different metals. Each metal stood for a world empire that would rule, and then fall. Rome was symbolized as two legs of iron. You can study this statue in Daniel chapter two, and can now look back in history, and clearly see these kingdoms. Daniel tells the king of Babylon - Nebuchadnezzar "Thou art this head of gold." Babylon was represented by the metal gold. As we progress through the statue, and through history, we see that next was the Medo-Persian empire, followed by the Greeks, and then the Romans. The two legs of iron - the Roman Empire, was the world super-power when Jesus walked the earth the first time.

We then see the feet - part of iron (Rome) and part of clay (other). This is where we are now, just waiting for the ten toes to appear, which are the same as the ten horns/ten kings of Revelation.

Did you see that? We are in the statue's feet - iron mixed with clay. Rome is still there, but they are not the Rome of the two iron legs. It is Rome, mixed with other governments of the people.

## Tour of Galatians

There is a movement going on in some Christian circles, known under various labels, such as "Torah Observant," "Messianic Christian," and "students of the Torah" - those who attend "Torah Class," etc. An accurate name for people who believe/teach that people should be Christians, but also keep the Torah, are Judaizers.

The King James Version doesn't use the word "Judaizers," but Young's Literal Translation does, as does some non-English Bibles. The KJV keeps it simple, and just refers to these type of people as those who say they are Christians, but also think they are supposed to keep the law. However, if someone wanted to say all of that in one word, they could use the word "Judaizers:"

"But when I saw that they are not walking uprightly to the truth of the good news, I said to Peter before all, `If thou, being a Jew, in the manner of the nations dost live, and not in the manner of the Jews, how the nations dost thou compel to Judaize?" Galatians 2:14 - Young's Literal Translation

To those who call themselves Christians, but believe they must keep the Torah as well - did you know there is a WHOLE book in the Bible in which its main topic is about how Christians are no longer under the law? There is.

It's the book of Galatians - let us take a tour of this book that warns against Judaizers and those who set out to Judaize. We'll jump into this meaty, juicy steak in a minute.

"Torah Observant Christians," though a big movement right now, is not new. It was occurring even just after Jesus' ascension. This movement seems to come and go in waves, and right now one of those waves is again rolling in.

Let's look at one of the times when Judaizers set out to Judaize, from the book of Acts:

"Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men

unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well. So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle: Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation." -Acts 15:24-31

Did you see that? New Christians were falling prey to Judiazers, thinking that maybe they have to keep the law, in addition to being followers of Christ. Judas and Silas were sent to teach the people that that is NOT the case. Christians are not under the law.

The above was the appetizer. Here is the main dish... Please follow along in your King James Bible through the whole book of Galatians:

Galatians chapter 1:1-10 - greetings and warnings against false gospels.  
"Another Gospel" cannot save us, we are only saved via this:

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" -Galatians 1:3-4

Even if this other "Gospel" is given via a supposed angel of light, we are not to believe it. Certain cults were started from this.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." -Galatians 1:8

Galatians 1:11-24 - Paul here gives his background - he used to be a staunch Jew that persecuted Christians, before he got saved. He knew the Scriptures and the law WELL. Who better to author Galatians - the book in the Bible in which the main topic is to dispel the false gospel of the Judaizers? Paul knows

the law, and he knows the freedom and grace of Christ. Jesus spoke to Paul personally (Acts 9).

Galatians 2:3 - The Judaizers wanted Titus, Paul's fellow helper and missionary, to be circumcised. Titus refused, for the "liberty we have in Christ Jesus," (in vs. 4) and that "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." -Galatians 5:6

You may recall reading earlier in the Bible that Timotheus was circumcised. He didn't do so to keep the law. He did so, because the Jews wouldn't listen to him unless he was circumcised, because he had a Jewish parent, and a Gentile parent. It was his choice. Timotheus chose to get circumcised and Titus chose not to. Either choice doesn't matter, for we are no longer under that law.

Galatians 2:3-5:

"But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage. To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you."

Being put back under the law, after we have been freed from the law in Christ, puts us back into bondage! The Judaizers here are called "false brethren." Sisters, we need to KNOW what the Bible says, or "false brethren" will try to feed us "another gospel." Heed this warning, and take it very seriously, for we are in the end times, and the Falling Away (2 Thessalonians 2:3) is occurring! I'm getting a little fired up... Okay, where were we...

The Apostle Peter, and the missionary Barnabas almost fell for the untruths of the Judaizers. Those who teach that Christians must keep the Torah are very convincing. That's why "Torah Class" is so popular. We are a nation where anyone can get a Bible, yet most Christians have never read the Bible. What a way to open yourself up to "another gospel" by "false brethren." Even then, we need to be careful. Barnabas knew the Scriptures of the time, and Peter was a disciple of Jesus Himself, yet both of them almost fell for the Judaizer's wind of false doctrine:

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision {the Jews}. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation." -Galatians 2:11-13

Paul to the rescue:

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." -Galatians 2:16

After reading the above, some of you are wondering *Then what happens when a Christian sins? Can a Christian be a lying, cheating, thief, or some other type of sinner, and still go to heaven?* The people then were thinking the same thing, and Paul gave the answer to this:

"But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." - Galatians 2:17-21

"For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." - When we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we become new creatures in Christ, and are born again (see 2 Cor. 5:17 and John chapter 3). The above says "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." We are not to live the life of our old (dead) man, we are to live as a one of God's children.



When someone gets saved/born again, they die to their old self, and they also die to the Old Covenant/Torah/Law. As can be read in Romans 7, a person is only bound by the law as long as they live. When that person dies, they are freed from the law. An example was given of marriage. You are only bound in marriage to your spouse until one of you dies, and then the marriage covenant is dissolved. When we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we die to our old sinful selves, and to the law. (2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:16; Gal. 2:19-20, etc.) We are spiritually risen anew, as new creatures in Christ - no longer under the law, but FREE. We become adopted sons and daughters of the King. Children of the King are never in bondage.

"if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" - If you call yourself a Christian, but you are also "Torah Observant," then you have made Christ's sacrifice on the cross amount to nothing. WHY did Jesus die on the cross? To FULFILL the law, and remove us from the bondage of the law, so that we receive grace and freedom through Christ, and are adopted as sons and daughters of the King. Do you get it? Do you see the big picture? PRAISE GOD!

"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" - Galatians 3:1-3

The Truth is Jesus Christ (John 14:6). We are saved and justified via his spilled blood on the cross, which paid for our sins, and fulfilled the law.

When we get saved, we receive the Holy Spirit of God. Paul here is reminding us that we received the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ, not through the law or any works of ours.

Notice "spirit" and "flesh." Keeping the law is considered part of the works of the flesh. Christians are not to be in the flesh, but the spirit. When we walk in the spirit, we walk as new creatures in Christ; as children of God. Love is the fulfillment of the law.

"He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among

you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." -Galatians 3:5-7

Just as we saw in chapter two that we are dead to the law, which parallels with Romans 7, we also now see a parallel with Romans 11, where we are shown that we too are the seed (children) of Abraham. We may not be physical seed, but we are counted as seed, because of our faith; by the Gospel - NOT because of works, which Paul explains below:

"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them." - Galatians 3:8-12. **"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin."** -Romans 14:23b

If one is under the law, they are not under faith, and they are sinning by being under the law.

It is impossible to keep the whole law. This is told to us in MANY Scriptures throughout both Old and New Testaments. The above Scripture tells us that if you choose to keep the law, you have to keep ALL of the law. When was the last time you stoned a homosexual to death? That's part of the law, you know.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" -Galatians 3:13

Christ is our Saviour. He SAVED us from the law, by redeeming us from the CURSE of the law. Jesus became a curse for us - "being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

"It is written" in the law. Take a look:

"And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance." -Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Now look at Romans 6:23:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Jesus took on OUR sin, and died in OUR place, hanging on the tree, being "accursed of God" in OUR place:

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." -2 Corinthians 5:21

Thank you Lord, for this free gift of salvation. The Lord took our sins upon Himself. If anyone truly believes on this, and accepts this gift, then they too will be saved. Praise God! Believe and receive – God made it that simple. He loves you.

"And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise." -Galatians 3:17-18

Abraham was saved by faith in the Gospel, the promise (Gal. 3:8-12). As we've already seen, anyone who is saved is counted as the seed of Abraham, regardless of physical descent. This makes all born again Christians seed of the promise as well. The law never removed that promise, and the seed of Abraham are under that promise, and therefore NOT under the law. - "the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect."

WHY do we have the Law? What's its purpose? Perhaps you are wondering

this. Here's the answer, straight from the Word of God:

"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster {no longer under the law}. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." -Galatians 3:19-29

There we have it - the law is our "schoolmaster" to bring us to Christ. The law is what shows us we're sinners, because we've ALL broken the law and are guilty, and deserving of a cursed death of hanging on a tree. Once we see this, then we see that we need saved. Jesus took on the curse for us, and hung on the tree/cross for us. We accept Jesus as that needed Saviour. Therefore the law brought us to Christ. Now that we are under Christ, we are no longer under the law.

In chapters 1-3, we saw very clearly that the Christian is not only dead to the law, but they are considered the seed of Abraham, who was not under the law, but under the promise of the Gospel. We learned that the promise was before the law, and that the law "could not disannul" the promise. We are the children of promise through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour.

Chapter 4 continues from chapter 3, where we learned that the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, and that after faith has come, we are no longer under that schoolmaster/the law.

"But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." -Galatians 4:2-5

Through Jesus Christ, we are now adopted as sons and daughters of the Lord. What I'm about to say is not politically correct, or at all popular, but none-the-less, it is the truth: Only saved, born again Christians are children of God. All others are children of the god of this world - the devil. (see John 8; 2 Cor. 4:4) The Bible is very clear on this. This, and most everything the Bible says aren't popular with this world. Perhaps this is the case, because Satan is the current prince of this world (John 14:30) - but not for much longer. Soon Christ will come back, evil will be done away with, and the curse will be lifted. Come soon, Lord Jesus.

Take a specific look at verse 4:

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law" - Galatians 4:4

Jesus was made under the law. He was to live on this earth - and was the only human to never sin. This was to fulfill the law. Only pure, sinless blood could be spilled to redeem mankind, and only God/Jesus could be that sacrifice.

Jesus kept the Torah perfectly - he lived a completely sin free life, and then he took on the sins of all mankind, as if He did them, and took the cursed punishment, of hanging on a tree/cross.

Jesus fulfilled the law in order to set us FREE from the law. Thank you Lord Jesus.

Remember, the main topic of Galatians is to refute Judaizers, and those who think they have to keep the Sabbaths, feasts, and other laws. Since Galatians' focus is on this, it gets very specific. Any honest Christian, even a Judaizer, cannot argue with the crystal clear facts in the below Scripture:

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service

unto them, which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain." -Galatians 4:7-11

Earlier in Galatians, it was already established that the bondage is referring to being under the law. WOW! Paul is describing many people walking around today, who claim to be Christians, but they also insist on putting themselves back into bondage via keeping Sabbaths (days), times, and years - of which things Christ has set us free. How can this be any clearer? So much detail.

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" - Galatians 4:16

Those who were putting themselves back into bondage were mad at Paul because he told them the truth, as he was taught from the Lord Jesus Himself. Jesus kept the law, so that we don't have to. Jesus kept the law so that it could be fulfilled, and we wouldn't have to be under that bondage anymore.

I can identify with Paul. Who would have known that such a topic of works/law vs. faith/freedom in Christ would cause such contention? I've gained a few enemies. Yet, I haven't done anything. I'm just writing a study. The Scriptures speak for themselves, as I've shown.

"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the

bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free." - Galatians 4:21-31

Paul gives us yet another allegory to try to explain how we are free in Christ, and no longer under the law. Just as he showed us earlier in Galatians, Christians are the spiritual seed of Abraham, and therefore seed of the promise, which was before the law, and therefore does not contain the law. He goes further to show that Christians are to be the spiritual seed of Isaac - the child of promise. Those who put themselves back under the law make themselves seed of Ishmael - the child who was born out of bondage, and not of promise.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." - Galatians 5:1

We're free! Praise God! Don't put yourself back under the law, or you put yourself back into bondage. Then, what of the liberty of Christ?

In fact, one's trying to keep days, times, feasts and other parts of the law, after they claim to have received Christ as their Lord and Saviour is VERY dangerous. Let me show you:

**"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."** - Galatians 5:4

Think about it - What's the point of Christ having come and died on the cross, if the "Christian" is just going to put themselves back under the law? Christ died to redeem us from the law of sin and death. What grace is left for those who try to work their way into heaven via the Torah, instead of having faith in Christ. Christ kept and keeps the law for us. He's the only one that can do it perfectly. Remember, he who is guilty on one point of law is considered guilty in all points. I DON'T want that on me, do you want that burden? I keep the spirit of the law through Christ, who has made me free. I'm a daughter of the King, not a servant to the law.

Christians are not under the law, but that does NOT give the Christian license to sin:

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." - Galatians 5:13-15

When Christians love one another, they are fulfilling the spirit of the law.

Christians are called to walk in love, and in the spirit. When we do this, we won't sin. Yet, the good the Christian does is not of themselves. When we walk in the spirit, we are yielding ourselves to the heavenly Father to do with us as He pleases. It's God's Spirit working through us that produces fruits of the God-honoring Christian. The law requires works by those who tried to keep the law. Christ set us free from the law. When we let Christ work in and through us, we love others.

Lord, I don't want to bite and devour others. Help me each day to walk in love. To love not only those who love me, but to love my enemies as well. Christians are supposed to LOVE their neighbor (AKA - everyone). That's the fulfilling of the spirit of the law.

"But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the **works** of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." - Galatians 5:18-26

Why does Paul hit the nail right on the head? Because he wrote what the Holy Spirit had him write. Notice the above calls the works of the flesh "works," but the fruit of the spirit "fruit." When we walk in the spirit, God's Holy Spirit works through us. The good works we do are not our own, they are God



working through us:

"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." - James 2:17

Works come from faith - God working through us. If we don't have that, then our faith is empty. When we get saved, God's Holy Spirit comes to live within us:

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" - Ephesians 1:3

There's that word promise again. When we have the Holy Spirit, we need to walk in the spirit, and yield ourselves to the Lord, and let HIM do the works through us.

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:1-2

We fulfill the law of Christ through love, and sometimes that is via bearing one another's burdens. We don't air our brother's and sister's dirty laundry or faults to the world. We go them, in a meek and humble spirit, and we bear their burden with them. This is the fulfilling of the law. This is love.

"For every man shall bear his own burden." - Galatians 6:5

We are to bear our own burdens, as well. We are to take responsibility for our own faults, and we are take it to the Lord. We are not to put things off on other people.

Verses 11-18 conclude the book of Galatians, where Paul puts in his closing. He always hand wrote the closings on all of his Epistles, even though it was hard for him to write. He always had someone write the letters for him, while he dictated, but he always made sure to put his own mark on it. His farewell was by his own hand, in love to his Christian brethren - us.

# *Homemakers' Schedules*

### Schedules From Homemakers of Yesteryear

It can be helpful to see how women before us scheduled their days. Below are schedules used by some Titus 2 women of the past:

Christine Frederick's Daily Schedule:

Rise 6:30 a.m.

Breakfast 7 o'clock. Dress little boy; scrape and carry dishes to kitchen; air beds.

Baby's bath 7:30 a.m.; the baby naps from 9 to 10 A. M.

Wash dishes, plan meals, cook, and prepare for dinner, 9 to 10 A.M. (Little boy plays on porch)

Make beds, sweep, dust, 10 to 11 am. With the baby if awake.

Prepare for luncheon, sew half an hour while playing with the children, 11 to 12.

Lunch with both children at noon. Leave luncheon dishes unwashed, so as to nap an hour at once with children, uninterrupted.

Dress self and children at 2 p.m.; go on walk, market or make a call.

Home again, 5 p.m.; give children supper, start own

Eat supper. Give children bath, put them to bed at 6 o'clock.

Have own supper alone with father. 6:30 p.m.

Wash dishes, and while doing them, prepare cereal, fruit, tend the baby's gruel for the "fireless cooker." Finish about 7:30 P.M.

## A ONE WEEK SCHEDULE FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE

## MONDAY

6 :00-6:30 Rise and dress ; start water heater

6:30-7:00 Prepare breakfast

7:00-7:30 BREAKFAST

7:30- 8:30 Wash dishes ; straighten kitchen ; inspect icebox ; plan meals for Monday and Tuesday

8:30-9:00 Prepare towards lunch

9:00-10:00 Bedrooms, bath and hall cleaned; sort and prepare soiled linen and laundry

10:00-11:00 Thorough downstairs cleaning

11:00-11:30 Rest period

11:30-12:00 Serve lunch

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-3:00 Lunch dishes ; prepare cooking for Monday and Tuesday; mop kitchen

3:00-4:00 Sewing and mending

4:00-4:30 Soak clothes and prepare for next day's washing

4:30-5:30 Rest period; play with children ; walk, recreation or market

5:30-6:00 Prepare supper

6:00- 7:00 SUPPER

7:00-7:30 Wash dishes

## TUESDAY

6:00-6:30 Rise and dress: put on boiler

6:30-7:00 Prepare breakfast

7:00-7:30 BREAKFAST

7:30-8:00 Stack dishes ; make beds

8:00-11:30 Washing

11:30-12:00 Rest period

12:00-1:00 LUNCH (prepared day before)

1:00-2:30 Wash breakfast and lunch dishes ; clear up laundry

2:30-4:00 Take in clothes: fold, sprinkle, lay away

4:00-5:30 Rest period

5:30-6:00 Prepare supper

6:00-7:00 SUPPER

7:00-7:30 Wash dishes

## WEDNESDAY

6:00-6:30 Rise and dress; start water heater

6:30-7:00 Prepare breakfast

7:00-7:30 BREAKFAST

7:30-8:30 Wash dishes; inspect icebox; plan meals; start lunch

8:30-9:00 Make beds; light cleaning

9:00-12:00 Ironing

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-2:00 Finish ironing; put away clothes

2:00-3:00 Wash dishes; straighten kitchen

3:00-4:00 Rest period

4:00-5:00 Market; walk

5:30-6:00 Prepare supper

6:00-7:00 SUPPER

7:00-7:30 Wash dishes

THURSDAY

6:00-6:30 Rise and dress; start water heater

6:30-7:00 Prepare breakfast

7:00-7:30 BREAKFAST

7:30-8:30 Wash dishes; straighten kitchen; plan meals

8:30-9:00 Make beds

9:00-11:30 Bedrooms and closets cleaned

11:30-12:00 Rest period

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-2:00 Wash dishes; prepare vegetables toward supper

2:00-3:30 Upstairs windows cleaned (Up and down stairs windows alternately each week)

3:30-4:00 Silver polished

4:00-5:30 Rest period

5:30-6:00 Prepare supper

6:00-7:00 SUPPER

7:00-7:30 Wash dishes

FRIDAY

6:00-6:30 Rise and dress; start heater

6:30-7:00 Prepare breakfast

7:00-7:30 BREAKFAST

7:30-8:30 Wash dishes; straighten kitchen; plan meals

8:30-9:00 Make beds

9:00-11:30 Downstairs cleaning

11:30-12:00 Rest period

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-2:00 Wash dishes; start supper

2:00-3:30 Clean refrigerator, pantry, kitchen, drawers

3:00-5:30 Rest period; marketing

5:30-6:00 Prepare supper

6:00-7:00 SUPPER

7:00-7:30 Wash dishes

7:30-8:00 Set bread

SATURDAY

6:00-6:30 Rise and dress; start heater

6:30-7:00 Prepare breakfast

7:00-7:30 BREAKFAST

7:30-8:00 Make beds

8:00-8:30 Wash dishes

8:30-11:30 Special cooking, and baking

11:30-12:00 Rest period

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-2:00 Wash dishes; start supper

2:00-3:30 Clean stove; wipe kitchen and porch

3:30-5 :30 Rest period

5:30-6:00 Prepare supper



6:00-7:00 SUPPER

7:00-7:30 Wash dishes

(Good hot dinner Saturday night; light or cold meals Sunday)

### A ONE-DAY SCHEDULE FOR A FAMILY OF THREE

(One small baby on 3-hour feeding period; small house or flat)

6:30-7:00 Rise and dress; give baby morning feeding

7:00-7:30 Breakfast. (Uncooked cereal, or cereal cooked in fireless. Table set night before)

7:30-8:00 Clear table; stack dishes; plan meals for the day; put on water for baby's bath

8:00-9:00 Bathe baby, feed and put to sleep; pick up after bath; straighten bedroom

9:00-10:00 Prepare baby's gruel, sterilized milk, etc; wash baby napkins while watching food

(Baby naps 9:00-11:00)

10:00-11:00 Clean living rooms, hall, etc., and dress, ready to take baby for morning airing while marketing

11:00-12:00 Outdoors with baby while marketing

12:00-1:00 Return for lunch and baby feeding

1:00-2:30 Wash combined breakfast and lunch dishes; prepare vegetables, dessert and meat, if possible, for evening meal; brush up kitchen; empty garbage; sweep porch

(Baby awake and playing outdoors, if possible, from 1-3; 3 o'clock feeding and sleep until 4)

2:30-3:00 Iron baby clothing

3:00-4:00 Rest period; preferably nap with baby while it is asleep

4:00-5:00 Afternoon airing

5:00-5:30 Start supper

5:30-6:00 Put baby to sleep with night feeding

6:00-7:30 Own supper; supper dishes washed; table set for breakfast following morning

(Baby's last feeding 10 P. M.)

The above schedules are from the books *The New Housekeeping*, and *Household Engineering*, both written by Christine Frederick. Both books are classic, public domain, and free to read online. They are great, and I highly recommend them.

Below are some books I personally recommend for family life and homemaking. All of the below books are free to read online; just do a search for them:

*The Secrets of Fascinating Womanhood*

*Baptist Women Exalted*

*Twenty-Six Hours a Day*

*Anna Maria's Housekeeping*

*The New Housekeeping*

*Household Engineering*

*The American Woman's Home*